NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026 / Humid, 81° / Weather: P. 16 ★★ SUNDAY nypost.com $2.00

Rep. Ilhan Omar
(D-Minnesota)

$OROS $TOOGES

Lefty moguls pump $103M to radical Dems

Maine Senate nominee
Graham Platner (D)

Democratic kingmakers George and Alex Soros have spent a staggering $103 million in the midterm election cycle so far, and could soon shatter the US spending record that George set during the last midterms. Father and son have propped up radical anti-America candidates like Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) and scandal-scarred Maine Senate nominee Graham Platner, among others.

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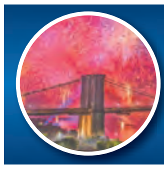
Sen. Raphael Warnock
(D-Georgia)

Rep. Ro Khanna
(D-California)

Sen. Jon Ossoff
(D-Georgia)

Rep. Pramila Jayapal
(D-Washington)



YOUR GUIDE TO USA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Sat.: **704**
■ Midday Win-4 Sat.: **9275**
■ Midday Take-5 Sat.: **7, 11, 13, 18, 38**
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: **116**
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: **1508**
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.: **4, 10, 18, 19, 35**
■ Lotto Sat.: **3, 6, 14, 31, 35, 46**; Bonus: **28**
■ Pick-10 Sat.: **3, 4, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 35, 38, 42, 47, 48, 54, 57, 59, 63, 77, 78, 79**
■ Millionaire for Life Sat.: **26, 32, 38, 51, 52**; MB: **5**
■ Mega Millions Fri.: **5, 13, 30, 33, 52**; MB: **6**
■ Powerball Sat.: **3, 16, 28, 30, 59** ; PB: **11**; PP: **x2**; DP: **2, 26, 34, 43, 45** ; PB: **15**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Sat.: **827;** Fireball: **8**
■ Pick-4 Sat.: **7628;** Fireball: **8**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **2, 14, 27, 35, 38**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Sat.: **057;** Wild: **5**
■ Play-4 Sat.: **0704;** Wild: **7**
■ Cash-5 Sat.: **6, 7, 16, 19, 31**

October surprise for Hillary

Happy 250th, USA!

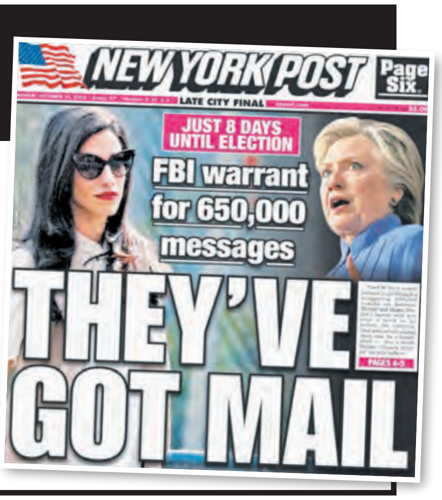
The Post is counting down to America's 250th birthday with a look back at the nation's — and the paper's — history. Every day leading up to the big event on July 4, we're publishing notable covers and stories from our archives:

Hillary Clinton's emails
October 31, 2016

Democrats got a scare from this Halloween cover, which revealed that the FBI was trawling through a laptop belonging to Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin and her ex-husband, former congressman Anthony Weiner, for 650,000 emails dating from Clinton's time as Barack Obama's secretary of state.

Revelations that Clinton used a personal email account to conduct government business consumed the 2016 presidential campaign. On July 5, then-FBI Director James Comey had enraged Republicans by announcing he would not recommend criminal charges while rapping Hillary as "extremely careless."

Comey then infuriated Democrats in late October by announcing the feds were examining the Abedin-Weiner laptop. No charges resulted, but Clinton would blame the fiasco for her loss to Donald Trump in the November election. *Samuel Chamberlain*


NEW YORK POST
Page Six
LATE CITY FINAL
JUST 8 DAYS UNTIL ELECTION
FBI warrant for 650,000 messages
THEY'VE GOT MAIL

Lefty told: Knock off 'Knicking' our logo!

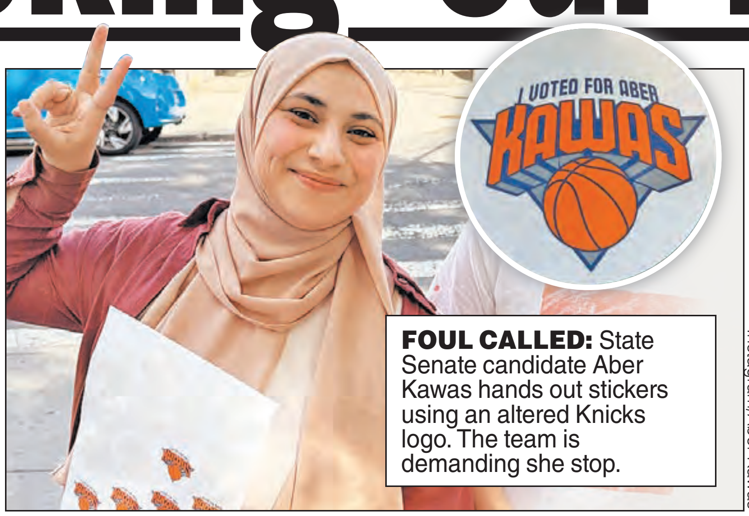
By RICH CALDER

The Knicks have fired off a "cease and desist" letter to America-hating state Senate candidate Aber Kawas, threatening to slap her with a lawsuit for ripping a page out of Mayor Mamdani's playbook and using the NBA champs' iconic logo to boost her campaign, The Post has learned.

Kawas — a Mamdani-backed, Democratic Socialist of America member who once described 9/11 as a terrorist attack that a "couple of people did" — tried to win over voters by using a doctored version of the Knicks logo on social media posts and campaign stickers throughout her primary run, which ended with her clinching the Democratic nomination for a Queens state Senate seat Tuesday.

Bryan N. Warner, senior vice president and head of legal for Madison Square Garden Sports, sent the letter to Kawas' campaign Friday night "demand[ing]" it "immediately remove all promotional materials incorporating Knicks Intellectual Property, including but not limited to the unauthorized Advertisements, and cease any further use of Knicks Intellectual Property."

"The Campaign's activities in this regard constitute, among other things, trademark infringement, trademark dilution, false advertising, false association, and unfair competition," he wrote in the letter exclusively obtained by The Post.



FOUL CALLED: State Senate candidate Aber Kawas hands out stickers using an altered Knicks logo. The team is demanding she stop.

Instagram/Aber Kawas

Kawas' bid to use the Knicks success and popularity for her own benefit includes a June 20 campaign message on X, posted a week after the Knicks won their first NBA championship in 53 years.

It uses a logo with the slogan "I Voted for Aber Kawas" that features the same font, orange-and-blue colors, and iconic basketball as the Knicks logo, but replaces the team's name with "Kawas."

"Head to the polls to claim your "I Voted for Aber Kawas" champion sticker," the post also says, while featuring a basketball emoji. "Earn bragging rights, make your friends jealous, and let everyone know that you're part of our movement to fight for the world in the world's borough."

Mamdani pulled the same trick in October while campaigning for mayor, airing an ad during the team's season opener that featured an altered logo replacing the word "Knicks" with "Zohran."

Mamdani pulled the ad after the team slammed him with a "cease and desist" letter and stressed it wasn't making any endorsements in the race.

Kawas' campaign did not return messages.

A MSG rep said the letter speaks for itself and declined further comment.

rcalder@nypost.com

DA Braggs of $21.5K in gala tickets

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg accepted free tickets worth at least $21,500 to attend 20 posh black-tie affairs and other galas last year.

Thirteen of the events were hosted by organizations that hold city contracts. Most of the tickets were valued at between $1,000 and nearly $5,000, with several events featuring celebrities, according to Bragg's 2025 financial disclosure forms filed with the city's Conflicts of Interest Board.

One event was the April 8 "Paths to Progress" fundraising gala at Ziegfeld Ballroom for the Vera Institute of Justice, whose mission is ending "mass incarceration." The group has contracts with the city to evaluate juvenile justice programs, among other tasks.

Bragg, a Democrat who's has been slammed by critics for allegedly going easy on suspects, reported his tickets were worth between $21,500 and $138,000.

By comparison, Bronx DA Darcel Clark disclosed 2025 event gifts worth $1,300 to nearly $11,000; Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez reported tickets worth $2,500 to $11,300, and Queens DA Melinda Katz and Staten Island DA Michael McMahon reported no such freebies.

Bragg's office did not return messages. *Rich Calder*

Ta-ta to NY's last Hooters

Thanks for the mammaries.

New York joined the ranks of US states that no longer has any Hooters outlets amid the breast-centered burger and wing chain's battle with bankruptcy.

The Hooters on 70 Wolf Road in Colonie, the chain's last holdout in the Empire State, closed this month after 15 years, as confirmed by a sign on the door, News 10 reported.

Mourners eulogized the outlet on Reddit, with one fan joking that it "went bust" while another wrote, "I just fell to my knees."

This followed the March closure of the Big Apple's only remaining branch of the breast-restaurant, known for its bar food and buxom staffers bearing the chain's official uniform: skimpy orange shorts and white T-shirts emblazoned with the iconic owl logo.

The national chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in March 2025 due to flatlining sales, inflation and other problems. They subsequently closed 30 corporate-owned restaurants across the country.

In an effort to keep from going under, the chain decided to undergo a more "family-friendly" rebrand after the founders bought back most of the chain last year. *Ben Cost*

SOCIAL LIFE
JULY 4, 2026
Celebrating 23 Years
CHRISTIE BRINKLEY

Social Life magazine

Christie on the 'Brink'

Hamptons royalty Christie Brinkley takes another star turn on the cover of *up*-upscale Social Life magazine as the legendary "Uptown Girl" talks of her plans for the upper-crust summer season on the ab-fab East End of LI.

METS FAN HAS VIRAL CRY-SIS

'Can I be Yanks fan?'

By ANGELA BARBUTI

PURE METS-ERY: Ezra Rudansky, 5, went viral for telling his father he can't be a Mets fan "because I don't want to be the worst."

There's no crying in baseball — when you root for the Yankees.

Mets fans are in even more despair last week as the team got swept by the Cubs and fired their manager.

But a 5-year-old Long Islander saw the writing on the wall months ago. He went viral for sobbing about being a Mets fan after learning he couldn't switch loyalties to the New York baseball team that actually wins.

"It was a long morning after his older brother told him we're @mets fans no matter what," Ezra Rudansky's father, Isaac, captioned the Instagram clip, which has racked up 346,000 views.

"Why can't you be a Mets fan?" Isaac asked the boy as the video begins.

"Because I don't want to be the worst," Ezra answered through tears.

"We're Mets fans in this house," the father of four replied.

"But I don't want to be the worst team," Ezra insisted.

"So which team do you want to root for?" Isaac asked.

"Yankees," Ezra said.

Ezra of Woodmere, LI, told The Post that although his family and friends are Mets fans, he wants to root for the Yankees, "because the Mets are the worst."

'It struck a chord'

His brother, Aaron, 10, recounted exactly when he broke his little brother's heart.

"It was after the Mets lost 12 games in a row," Ezra's big brother explained.

"Every Mets fan is extremely irate right now, so it struck a chord," their dad, Isaac, said Friday.

"Mets GM David Stearns was all about run prevention, he went out and bought five shortstops, let beloved players like Diaz and Alonso and Nimmo go, and with the second-highest payroll in baseball, the Mets are a disaster. With six infield errors against the Cubs, this just has to be rock bottom. Firing Mendoza was just the first in many necessary changes to prepare for a better season in 2027."

Many in the comments section agreed with Ezra's assessment, with comments like, "Smart little boy!" and "Stand your ground Kid!!"

"As a lifelong Mets fan, I mean, he's not wrong," one said.

"Liberate that little kid from a lifetime of suffering," another pleaded.

"Hang in there kid. It can only get worse!" someone else quipped.

Others agreed with his dad, and called being a Mets fan "character building."

"Sorry friend, no choice. But we got heart," one said.

"We may lose, but damn it, we have integrity," another said.

"Gotta work through the pain, little man. Trust me, every 10 years or so when the Mets maybe look like a contender it will be fun," someone else added.

abarbuti@nypost.com

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

YOUR GUIDE TO USA'S JULY 4TH BIRTHDAY PARTY IN NYC

PARADE OF SHIPS

7:30 - 9 am: International Review of US Navy and allied foreign warships

9:30 am - 2:00 pm: In 6-minute intervals, tall ships sail northbound from the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge in Lower NY Bay, past the Statue of Liberty, up the Hudson to George Washington Bridge. The vessels will then turn around and proceed to their assigned piers — South Street Seaport, Brooklyn Navy Yard, and Staten Island Homeport, where **public tours on July 5–7** will be offered

7 am- 1 pm: NBC live coverage

FLYOVER

10:15 – 11:30 am: Led by the US Navy's Blue Angels, 120 to 200 aircraft from the US and allied nations will fly in massive formations over the Verrazzano Bridge to the Statue of Liberty, up the Hudson River to the GWB, paralleling the Tall Ships Parade. Aircraft will include:

- Blue Angels' six F/A-18E/F Super Hornets flying in a tight diamond formation, at 400-plus mph, sometimes less than 18 inches apart
- US Air Force fighters including F-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning II, and possibly the B-52 Stratofortress or B-2 Spirit
- US Coast Guard's MH-65 Dolphin and MH-60 Jayhawk helicopters
- US Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and possibly AH-64 Apache attack helicopters
- Historic WWII-era warbirds

FIREWORKS

MACY'S 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS, 8 - 10 pm: NBC, simulcast on Peacock.

Performances by The Voice season 29 winner Alexia Jayy, Noah Kahan, Post Malone, Salt-N-Pepa, Bebe Rexha, Shaboozey, and Blake Shelton

The bombs – a record 80,000 shells – begin bursting in air at **9:25 pm.** There will be three simultaneous launch sites instead of the usual one, firing from six barges on the lower East River near the Seaport; the Brooklyn Bridge, paired with laser effects; and the lower Hudson River near Jersey City

BEST FIREWORKS VIEWING SPOTS

EAST RIVER: Brooklyn Bridge Park; Domino Park, Williamsburg; Pier 17 / South Street Seaport; The Battery; Gantry Plaza State Park, Long Island City

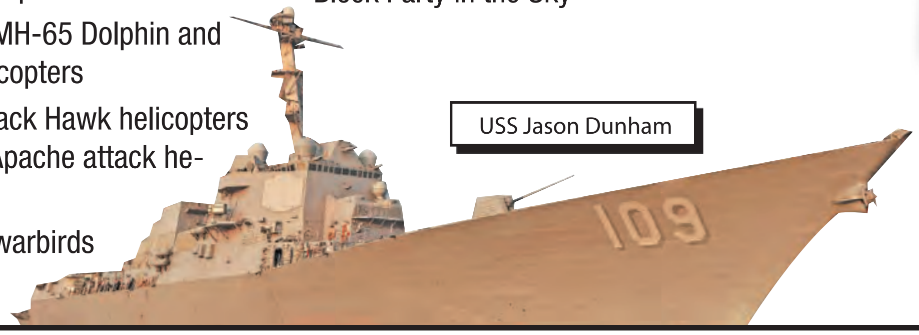
HUDSON RIVER: Liberty State Park, Jersey City; Exchange Place, Jersey City; Hudson River Park piers, Manhattan; Riverside Park, Upper West Side

TICKETED / PREMIUM OPTIONS: Empire State Building, 86th Floor Observation Deck; One Times Square, "America's Block Party in the Sky"

USCGC Eagle

USN Blue Angels and USAF Thunderbirds

BAP Union


USS Jason Dunham

NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

SUNDAY

$2.00

B'KLYN BRIDGE HORROR

Mexican tall ship slams into historic span, two dead, scores hurt

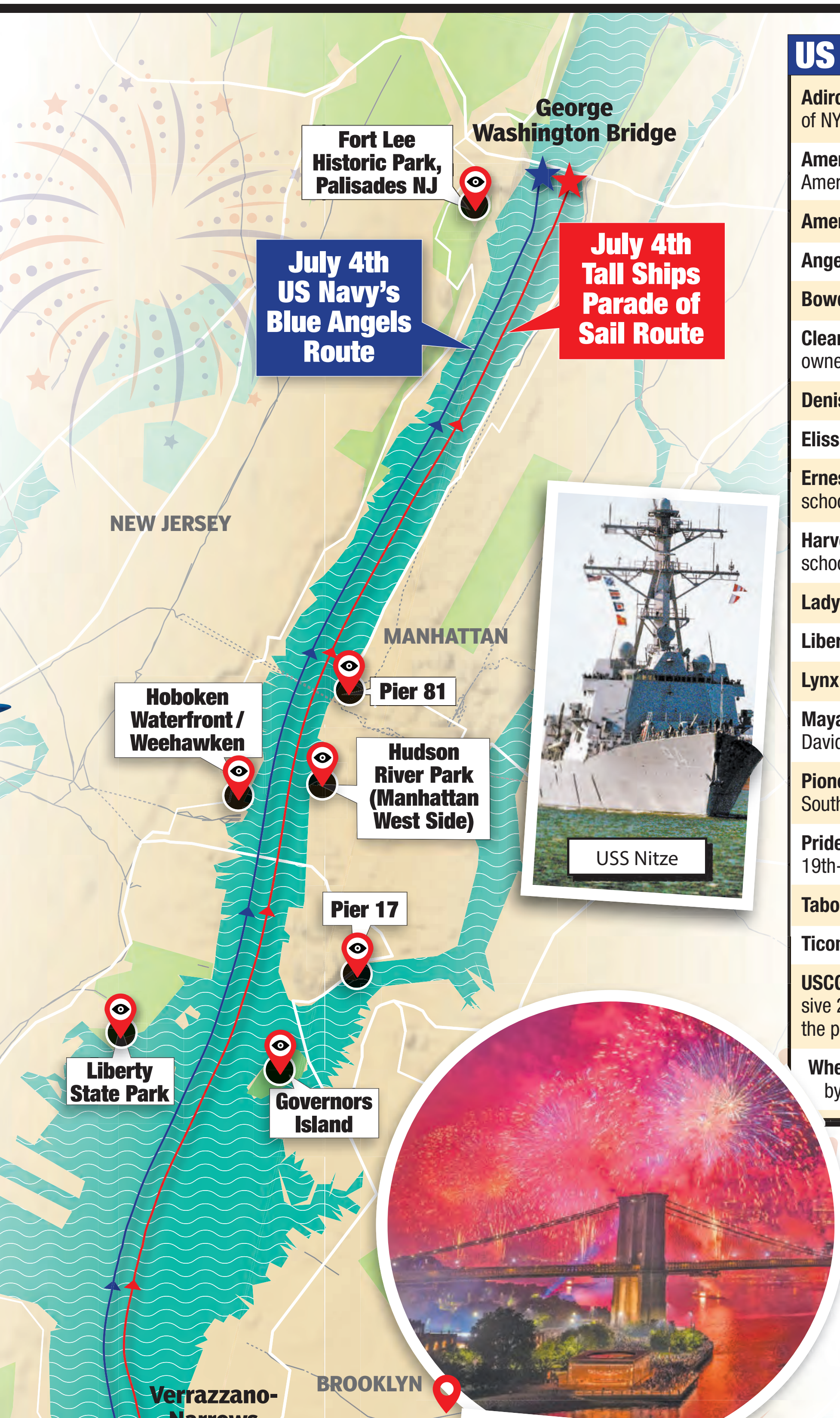
PAGES 4-5

ADIOS MEXICO!

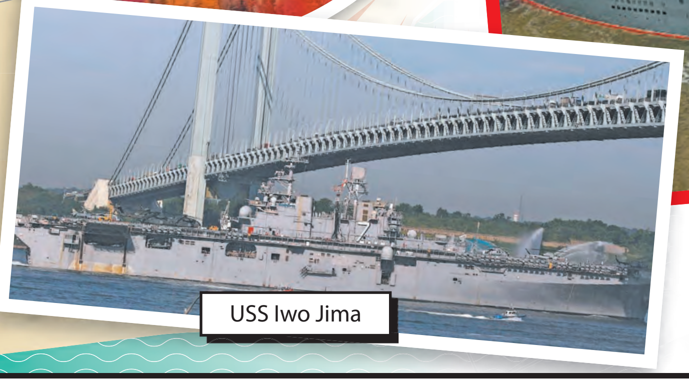
The nation's navy tall ship Cuauhtémoc will not participate in the parade because, after colliding with the Brooklyn Bridge in May 2025, major mast repairs could not be completed in time.

STATEN ISLAND

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!


George Washington Bridge
Fort Lee Historic Park, Palisades NJ
July 4th US Navy's Blue Angels Route
July 4th Tall Ships Parade of Sail Route
NEW JERSEY
MANHATTAN
Pier 81
Hoboken Waterfront / Weehawken
Hudson River Park (Manhattan West Side)
Pier 17
Liberty State Park
Governors Island
BROOKLYN
Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge
Fort Hamilton
Alice Austen Park, Staten Island
GRAVENSEND BAY

USS Nitze


USS Iwo Jima

US TALL SHIPS

Adirondack — 65-foot wood-hull schooner out of NYC

America 2.0 — 105-foot tribute to the 1851 America's Cup winner.

American Eagle — 123 ft.

Angelique — 130-foot ketch

Bowdoin — official vessel of Maine

Clearwater — 106 ft. Hudson River sloop once owned by folk star Pete Seeger

Denis Sullivan — 137 ft.

Elissa — 141-ft iron-hulled barque built in 1877

Ernestina-Morrissey — 156-ft. two-masted schooner

Harvey Gamage — 131-foot gaff-rigged schooner

Lady Maryland — 104 ft.

Liberty Clipper — 125 ft.

Lynx — 122-ft. replica of War of 1812 privateer.

Mayan — 65-ft yacht once owned by rock star David Crosby.

Pioneer — 102-ft. three-masted schooner from South Street Seaport fleet

Pride of Baltimore II — Reproduction of a 19th-century Baltimore Clipper

Tabor Boy — 115 ft.

Ticonderoga — 72-foot classic ketch

USCGC Eagle ("America's Tall Ship") — Massive 295-foot three-masted barque. Always leads the parade of sail in US port visits.

When and If — A 63-ft schooner commissioned by Gen. George Patton in 1939.

INTERNATIONAL TALL SHIPS

Argentina — ARA Libertad, 340 ft.

British Virgin Islands — STV Vela, 112 ft.

Chile — Esmeralda, 371 ft.

Colombia — ARC Gloria, 212 ft.

Dominican Republic — Juan Bautista Cambiaso, 177 ft.

Ecuador — BAE Guayas, 257 ft.

France — Belle Poule, 123 ft.

Germany — Gorch Fock: 266 ft.

India — INS Sudarshini, 177 ft.

Italy — Amerigo Vespucci, 329 ft.

Monaco — Tuiga, 93 ft.

Netherlands — Oosterschelde, 164 ft.

Peru — BAP Union, 378 ft.

Poland — Dar Mlodziezy, 354 ft.

Portugal — NRP Sagres, 292 ft.

Romania — Mircea, 269 ft.

Spain — Juan Sebastian de Elcano, 371 ft.

Sweden — HMS Gladan, 129 ft.

Uruguay — Capitan Miranda, 210 ft.

US NAVAL SHIPS

USS Arlington — Amphibious transport ship

USS Kearsarge — Wasp-class amphibious assault ship

USS Iwo Jima — Wasp-class amphibious assault ship

USS Farragut — Guided-missile destroyer

USS Nitze — Guided-missile destroyer

USS Jason Dunham — Guided-missile destroyer

US Naval Academy Yard Patrol Craft (4 vessels) — Small training craft

Queen Mary 2

🟥 Parade of Ships route
🟦 Blue Angels route
📍 Best hViewing Spots

$KEWERED ON

AP

‘Freeh’ passage on Vesp

A New Jersey club named after explorer Amerigo Vespucci is crashing America’s 250th birthday party aboard a namesake Italian tall ship — thanks to a former G-man.

When Amerigo Vespucci Society board member Joe Valentino found out the breathtaking Italian naval vessel (above) was sailing into New York Harbor as one of the 48 tall ships in the Sail4th 250 celebration, he scrambled to get his club aboard the 331-foot giant before its return to Italy.

With efforts starting to sink, Valentino hit up his pal, ex-FBI Director Louis Freeh.

Freeh, who ran the FBI under ex-President Bill Clinton, said he’d make a few calls, and ultimately got Joe Guccione, a former US Marshal for the Southern District of New York and board member of the National Italian American Association, to help.

Guccione reached out to the Consulate General of Italy, and it was smooth sailing from there, according to members of the Long Branch-based Amerigo Vespucci Society.

They will be welcomed aboard the 96-year-old ship on July 6 while it’s docked on Pier 86 in Hell’s Kitchen. *Rich Calder*

Few US birthday suits

Happy birthday, America; sorry your merch sucks.

As the Red, White and Blue gears up to celebrate the country’s 250th birthday, shoppers have yet to spot enough patriotic products.

A quick Google search and you’ll see that companies like McDonald’s, Old Navy and more have partnered with the World Cup to drop special merch. But brands that scream America have so far stayed fairly quiet on the nation’s big day.

To be fair, McDonald’s did bring back its cult-classic apple pie for a limited time. But fans say if they really loved America, they would make it permanent.

Old Navy has started selling its classic Fourth of July gear, but only two tops have the “250” celebration — and they are sold out. Regardless, shoppers want more.

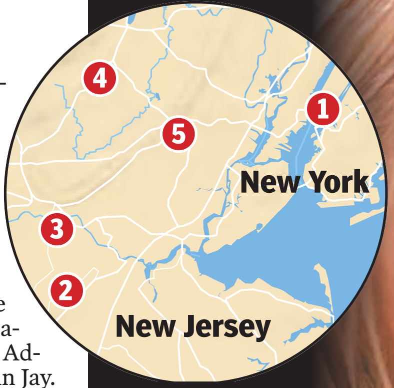
In a Facebook post titled, “Why are companies not celebrating the 250th anniversary,” shoppers revealed that while there are some items — there’s just not enough.

The Facebook group has garnered over 660 comments.

Aurielle Weiss

Drink up like our Founding Fathers

By ANGELA BARBUTI



PATRIOTIC PINTS: Emmy-winning TV host and author Darley Newman visits the Glenbrook Brewery in Morristown, NJ. Her book, “Revolutionary Road Trip” is out on Tuesday.

This Fourth of July, patriots can raise their glasses to the nation’s 250th birthday while pub crawling through the still-standing haunts of the Founding Fathers.

Yes, drink grog at the Revolutionary War layovers used by George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, Samuel Adams, John Hancock and John Jay.

Emmy Award-winning TV travel host Darley Newman visited such sites in the original 13 colonies for her PBS show, “Travels with Darley,” and came to a spirited conclusion.

“I discovered something history class never really covered: the Founding Fathers partied hard. And, you can still visit the places where they shared a pint or potent punch,” said Newman, whose book “Revolutionary Road Trip,” is out Tuesday.

“Taverns during the Revolutionary era weren’t just places to eat and drink,” explained the Upper West Sider. “They were gathering spaces where revolutionaries debated politics, traded news, planned strategy and celebrated victories — often over rum punch, ale, whiskey and hearty comfort food.”

Here are some of our favorite watering holes:

1. Fraunces Tavern, FiDi

Washington famously gave his farewell address to his troops in 1783 at this downtown gin mill, which opened in 1762 on Pearl Street. Post founder Alexander Hamilton dined with Aaron Burr at Fraunces Tavern a week prior to their infamous duel across the river in Weehawken. Ahead of his time, Washington even ordered takeout there. “He was an early NYC Door Dasher,” Newman said. To honor America’s 250th anniversary, Fraunces is serving up a three-course colonial dinner with dishes such as braised rabbit legs, stuffed quail crépine and cherry trifle. It also serves presidential punch: a mix of rye, orange liqueur, rum, bitters, lemon juice and peach iced tea.

2. Nassau Inn & Yankee Doodle Tap Room, Princeton, NJ

This hotel in downtown Princeton, originally called College Inn, was occupied by the British during the Revolution. It also housed Continental Congress members, who stayed there when they met in nearby Nassau Hall on the campus of Princeton University, which was turned into a battleground and then US Capitol in 1783. The Battle of Yorktown and the signing of the Peace Treaty were toasted there over punchbowls. Its restaurant, the Yankee Doodle Tap Room, now pays homage to Revolutionary history with a 13-foot Norman Rockwell painting illustrating the lyrics of “Yankee Doodle.”

3. Flounder Brewing Co., Hillsborough Township, NJ

THE 4TH OF JULY

Courtesy of Darley Newman

This restored 250-year-old barn-turned-brewery stands on the Washington–Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. That 680-mile trail, which spans nine states, was trekked by Washington and his Continental Army during their 1781 march from Newport, RI, to Yorktown, Va., which led to their final victory there.

4. Glenbrook Brewery, Morristown, NJ

Morristown is known as "the military capital of the American Revolution," where Washington and the Continental Army spent two winters. It was also the home of Ford Mansion, where Washington's headquarters were from 1779 to 1780. Glenbrook, the first-ever brewery in the town, is serving a special beer, "250th Anniversary Ale. Established 1776," for which they partnered with Laird & Company, the nation's oldest licensed distillery.

5. Galloping Hill Inn, Union, NJ

This hot dog stand, which serves birch beer on tap, is located alongside Galloping Hill Road, used by British troops in 1780 marching toward both the Battle of Connecticut Farms and the Battle of Springfield.

Cookout staples up big from '25

By GABRIELLE FAHMY
and TRISTA PANAGAKOS

Patriotic New Yorkers are getting roasted at the register as they celebrate the Fourth of July this year.

Shoppers in the five boroughs are shelling out an extra $63 this year as they prepare for backyard barbecues marking the country's 250th birthday.

The already sky-high prices of BBQ essentials surged a staggering 31% on average in the Big Apple since last year, according to a Post review of retail prices across Gotham grocery stores.

A typical cookout for 10 people — complete with hot dogs, beef hamburgers and all the fixings, plus dessert and alcohol — will set shoppers back a whopping $295, compared to $232 this time last year.

"These prices are just insane," New Yorker Diana Hernandez, who was buying food at the East 14th Street Target on Friday, told The Post. "You can't buy nothing."

That gooey slice of cheese to top a grilled hamburger is one of the items that climbed the most — a pack of 16 Kraft singles went from $3 last year to $5 this year — a bump of 67%.

'Everyone's stretched'

Booze also took a big hit. A 12-pack of Budweiser or Bud Light cans sold for $11 last July 4th at Morton Williams but is now $17 — up a shocking 55%.

Imported wines are up too because of the impact of tariffs. A bottle of Château Lamothe De Haux Bordeaux Blanc that sold for $20 last year at a Manhattan wine store is now going for $22 — up 10%.

Condiments weren't spared from inflation either. A 38-oz. bottle of Heinz ketchup that sold for $4 last summer is now going for $5.60 — a 40% increase.

The price of tomatoes hit a record high in April, driven by tariffs on Mexican tomatoes and bad weather south of the border, and in Florida, damaging crops.

At ShopRite, a pound of beefsteak tomatoes was $2 last year, and this year is selling for $2.50 — a 25% difference.

"Everyone's stretched," said Fedy Rizk, who was buying food this week at the Target on the South Shore of Staten Island. "Two, three dollars — it adds up."

Hamburger meat is up as much as 28% in the city since last Independence Day, because of the smallest cattle herd in 75 years in the United States amid severe droughts and higher production costs.

"It's too expensive," lamented shopper Kele Nkhereanye. "I'm just trying to survive.

"July Fourth isn't going to be the same . . . I don't think it's fair."

Other grilling favorites rose too. The same pack of 10 classic Oscar Mayer hot dogs that sold for $2.50 last year is now going for $3 — up 20%.

Another major driver of soaring BBQ costs is the rise in global oil prices, making it more expensive to transport food to supermarket shelves. Though crude oil prices are back to where they were before the Iran war, US gas prices haven't fallen back down, experts told The Post.

July 4th BBQ Sticker Shock

New Yorkers will shell out an extra $63.33 this year on the average Fourth of July backyard barbecue, up a staggering 31% from last year

Item	'25 Price	'26 Price	Price Change	Percent Change
Burgers, 18	$41.97	$53.97	$12.00	28%
Burger Buns, 24	$7.50	$7.50	$0.00	0%
Hot Dogs, 40	$10.00	$11.96	$1.96	20%
Hot Dog Buns, 24	$7.50	$8.97	$1.47	20%
Ketchup, 38oz (Heinz)	$3.99	$5.59	$1.60	40%
Mayo, 20oz (Hellmann's)	$5.49	$5.99	$0.50	9%
Mustard, 20oz (French)	$1.99	$1.99	$0.00	0%
Pickles, 24oz (Nathan's)	$3.99	$6.49	$2.50	63%
Tomatoes, 2lb	$3.98	$4.98	$1.00	13%
Lettuce	$3.99	$4.49	$0.50	13%
Cheese (Kraft singles)	$5.98	$9.98	$4.00	67%
BBQ Sauce	$1.49	$2.29	$0.80	54%
Corn, 12	$8.97	$11.67	$2.70	30%
Watermelon, 1	$3.49	$5.99	$2.50	72%
Paper Plates, 36	$7.58	$9.38	$1.80	24%
Store Baked Apple Pie, 2	$11.98	$11.98	$0.00	0%
Potato Salad, 48oz	$8.97	$14.97	$6.00	67%
Beer (Budweiser, 36 cans)	$32.97	$50.97	$18.00	55%
Wine (Chateau Lamothe De Haux Bordeaux Blanc, 3 bottles)	$59.97	$65.97	$6.00	10%
Total	**$231.80**	**$295.13**	**+$63.33**	**+31%**

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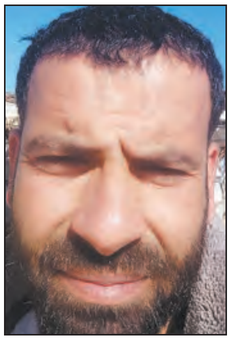
‘Love’-hate match

Lefty US gal weds Gazan via Zoom

By DAVID SPECTOR

Laura Maria/Facebook



ISRAEL HATER: California public school teacher Laura Pinho (left) has bragged that she married Gazan Salem S.E. Abu Amra (right) on Zoom to give him US citizenship.

A radical, Israel-hating California teacher claimed she married a Gaza resident online to help him gain American citizenship — and push her pro-Palestinian agenda.

Laura Pinho, a dance teacher at Canoga Park Senior HS, announced her nuptials in a wild June 16 CODEPINK Zoom webinar called “Challenging Zionism In Our Schools.”

When CODEPINK activist Marcy Winograd congratulated her on her marriage and asked her to share details about her life, Pinho, 51, launched into a pedantic monologue about how she only married Salem S.E. Abu Amra to advance “Palestinian rights and freedoms.”

“I have power as an American citizen. I have a passport that I was just born with, and how can I live in this world if I don’t make every effort to equalize the playing field on whatever way that I can,” she said in the webinar, first uncovered by the North American Values Institute.

‘Top five crimes’

Englewood, NJ, Mayor Michael Wildes — who is also an immigration attorney and former federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York — told The Post that Pinho is playing with fire.

“She can be prosecuted criminally, brought up on federal conspiracy charges. Marriage fraud is one of the top five crimes you can perpetrate, including terrorism and drugs. The fact that somebody would be foolish enough to say they actually did it makes it actionable for the federal government to investigate,” Wildes said.

Marrying someone to get a green card is a federal crime and can carry a five-year prison sentence and up to a $250,000 fine, according to the Department of Justice.

The odd couple tied the knot April 5 in Utah, which allows marriages to be conducted via Zoom, according to records posted online by the Utah County Clerk and obtained by Israeli nonprofit NGO Monitor. Utah allows virtual marriages in which both parties aren’t in the same location, as long as they have secured a Utah County marriage license and provide a valid ID and two witnesses — who also don’t have to be physically present in the state.

The bride has a 5-year-old child with Derek J. Reid, 51, an improv coach who also lives at her address, according to public records.

Reid told The Post that he and Pinho were domestic partners and never officially married, and that they’re separated and sleep in different rooms at the same address. He said he had no knowledge of her marriage to Abu Amra.

Split over Israel

He said their relationship dissolved partially over Israel — she left the church the two used to attend together over its stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It is unclear if Abu Amra has come to the US. The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to The Post’s request for comment.

Pinho heads her school’s Students for Justice in Palestine club and bragged about injecting her virulent anti-Israel politics into her dance curriculum.

Pinho and the Los Angeles Unified School District didn’t return requests for comment.

Palestine flag wave at school sparks ire

A Staten Island eighth grader brazenly waved a Palestinian flag at his middle-school graduation, sparking outrage after he defied a school directive.

The pupil accepted his diploma onstage at Elias Bernstein IS 7 in Huguenot on Monday and unfurled the flag as he walked off the stage (above), video of the ceremony shows.

A handful in the crowd of hundreds cheered while the majority loudly booed, immediately fracturing the event.

One furious grandmother declared that her granddaughter’s graduation day was “ruined” because of the selfish stunt.

“Children are a product of their parents. These children all worked hard for this day,” she wrote on Facebook.

“For many Jewish families in attendance, this felt like a political and intimidating message that had no place at a middle school graduation during this political climate,” one parent wrote in a message posted to Instagram by advocacy group NYC Public School Alliance.

The student wasn’t removed from the ceremony after displaying the flag, and school staff continued reading off the names of graduates amid the commotion.

“There needs to be a true and meaningful consequence for unruly and disruptive behavior at any graduation ceremony,” said Borough President Vito Fossella.

School officials sent notices to parents before the ceremony that political displays of any kind are forbidden.

The Post has reached out to the boy’s parents.

The DOE did not respond to a request for comment.

Trista Panagakos

School punishment for swastikas

The elite private school affiliated with the UN that caught eighth-grade students scrawling swastikas and other hate imagery into yearbooks last week has kicked out a handful of the offenders, The Post has learned.

The United Nations International School sent an email to all parents on Thursday after it concluded its “thorough and deliberate” investigation into the “yearbook incident” that it had said affected more than 30 yearbooks and potentially involved as many as 15 kids.

“All students found to have participated in this incident have been held accountable,” wrote head of school Dan Brenner in a letter sent to parents Thursday.

“Each case was viewed individually with a range of imposed consequences, including students not returning to our community. All the students involved and their families have been informed in individual meetings.”

UNIS spokesperson Lupe Todd-Medina refused to say how many kids were booted, but told The Post that disciplinary action also included counseling and probation for the “fewer than 15 kids involved.”

The Turtle Bay school was in the news in February when a longtime Jewish teacher filed a discrimination suit alleging administrators ignored her complaints of Jew hatred and retaliated against her for speaking out.

Doree Lewak

George & son top midterm donors

‘$OAR’OS TO NEW HEIGHTS

By GABRIELLE FAHMY, RICH CALDER and DAVID SPECTOR

SHARP LEFT: George Soros and his son Alex Soros (left) are on pace to shatter the billionaire’s previous record of spending $128 million on left-wing candidates in the 2022 midterms.

AFP via Getty Images

Billionaire Democratic kingmaker George Soros and his son Alex spent a staggering $102.8 million in the midterm election cycle — making the family the chief architects of the party’s seismic shift toward the radical left.

With the November elections more than four months away, George Soros could shatter his own spending record of $128 million set during the last midterms four years ago, when he was the biggest single donor.

“Money talks, and Soros money says the most insidious, unconstitutional, costly tax hikes in American history are on the table,” said Douglas Kellogg, state projects director for Americans for Tax Reform.

Soros is a “wannabe Bond villain,” responsible for the radical takeover of the Democratic Party, he added.

Only a fraction of this cycle’s contributions — $793,800 — were made in the 95-year-old’s name, a review of Federal Election Commission data reveals.

Almost all of the money — $102 million — was funneled through the Democracy Political Action Committee, the super PAC Soros launched in 2020, which acts as the family’s main political arm, obfuscating efforts to know which candidates the clan is propping up.

Of that, a little over half, $52 million, came from George Soros through the corporation Geosor under his name — and the other $50 million came from Fund for Policy Reform, a nonprofit that lists his son Alex Soros as director in tax filings.

Dark money

That’s without counting the family’s main organization, the Open Society Foundation — which funds efforts to decriminalize drugs, open the border and abolish the police — and its lobbying wing, the Open Society Action Fund, which doesn’t have to disclose political spending because it’s registered as a nonprofit doing mere advocacy work.

In previous election cycles, the Open Society Action Fund’s cash flowed to groups backing lefty stars like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and embattled pal Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), but its tax filings for 2025 aren’t yet available.

Control of the dark money Democracy PAC, where the bulk of the family’s money went, changed before the 2024 presidential election, with Soros handing over the reins of his empire to his son Alex Soros, the fourth of five children.

“He wants to be more political than his dad, this is the first midterm cycle where he is in control,” said Parker Thayer, investigative researcher at Capital Research Center. “George is not in control, he hasn’t been in control in some time.”

Donations made in the George and Alex Soros’ names were largely in step this cycle, backing many of the same left-wing candidates — with Alex adding another $140,525 to the family’s midterm push.

Heir to kingmaker

Alex, 40, and his father both sent maximum contributions of $7,000 ($14,000 total) to Maine senatorial candidate Graham Platner, who’s been accused of misconduct toward women and regularly slams the rich — despite his own wealthy upbringing.

The fat cat’s spawn maxed out donations and sent $7,000 to Jimmy Choo-wearing Omar, who’s been slammed for allegedly knowing about the widespread fraud involving the Somali community in her Minneapolis district. Omar has denied wrongdoing. He also sent a max donation of $7,000 to multimillionaire left-wing Silicon Valley Rep. Ro Khanna, who’s said to be mulling a 2028 presidential run.

The nepo baby and his oligarch father sent max donations to two other Democratic presidential hopefuls, Georgia Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff, who receiving a total of $14,000 each.

In all, the Soroses have poured 52% more into the family political slush fund than in 2024, when they channeled $67 million into the Democracy PAC, according to campaign filings.

Clout of pocket

George Soros and Alex, his son set to take over the family’s political funds, spent millions in the midterm elections through their PACs. They also gave max individual contributions to several Democrats, including:

Rep. Pramilla Jayapal (D-Wash.)	$14K
Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.)	$14K
Graham Platner (D-Maine)	$14K
Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.)	$7K
Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.)	$7K
Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.)	$7K

Primaries ‘spur’ AOC WH bid . . .

The primary sweep by Mayor Mamdani’s comrades gave Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez such an ego boost that Democratic insiders predict it could spur a White House bid in 2028.

Ocasio-Cortez may ditch an anticipated run for Senate for bigger game after three insurgents Tuesday defeated old-guard House Democrats, insiders said.

“New York’s clean sweep was a political earthquake . . . voters generally want to shake up the system,” said Adam Green of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. “Whatever percent chance [AOC] put on running for president a week ago, it should be a higher percent chance now — absolutely. It could have gone from 5% to 20%.”

Rich Calder

. . . and that’s fine with Chuck

He may be A-OK with AOC.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is enough of a political animal that he might back Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez if, fueled by the success of radicals in Tuesday’s primaries, she runs for president, insiders said.

“Schumer’s a smart enough person where if it is that time [for an Ocasio-Cortez White House run], he would probably be one of her biggest champions,” said a longtime New York Democratic operative.

Schumer, 75, has hitched his wagon to local left-wingers before and outlasted former rival Hillary Clinton, whom he endorsed for president back in 2013, declaring 2016 to be “Hillary’s time.” *Geoff Earle*

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

What cease-fire?

By DANIEL CODY

More new hits and retaliation

Iran says it launched a series of retaliatory strikes on US military assets in Kuwait and Bahrain Saturday night — after the US hit them earlier in the day as part of a rising series of strikes and counterstrikes.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps claimed it "destroyed eight important US military facilities at the Ali al-Salem base in Kuwait and at the Fifth Fleet naval base in Port Salman in Bahrain."

It was not clear how much damage the attacks did, but Kuwait said it was attempting to intercept the attacks and "any explosions that may be heard are the result of air defense systems intercepting hostile targets," according to a statement on X.

Air raid sirens, meanwhile, went off Bahrain, as officials there called on residents to "remain calm and head to the nearest safe place." The US has major bases in both countries.

'Crushing response'

In its statement, Iran talked tough on social media, saying "any enemy aggression, whatever the pretext, even against insignificant targets . . . will have a crushing response."

The saber rattling came after President Trump posted on social media Saturday night threats again Iran if it continues with the tit-for-tat attacks as the two nations try to hash out a peace deal.

"There may come a point when we are no longer able to be reasonable, and will be forced to militarily complete the job that we very successfully started. If that happens the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!" Trump posted on Truth Social.

Earlier, US forces conducted more airstrikes against "multiple targets" in Iran as retaliation for recent attacks, US Central Command said.

CENTCOM says that after the US struck Iran Friday in response to an Iranian attack on a ship called the M/V Ever Lovely, Iran "was given a chance to honor the cease-fire agreement but elected not to when its forces launched a one-way attack drone that hit M/T Kiku this morning at 4:30 a.m. ET."

Military officials said the new Saturday attacks "targeted Iranian military surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defense sites, drone storage facilities, and minelayer capabilities."

The military also said that "commercial vessel transits through the Strait of Hormuz continue."

Tehran claimed the attacks were revenge after Iran was hit with a barrage of airstrikes this past week that threatened to doom a cease-fire already teetering on the brink.

UNCLASSIFIED

SINKING THE DEAL? The peace deal for the US and Iran was shaken by dueling strikes, with attacks by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz (above) and the US response (right).

Getty Images; Reuters

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps would not disclose which locations "of the US terrorist army in the region" it had targeted, but described the drone strikes as "defensive attacks."

Bahrain targeted

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry confirmed that a "number of Iranian drones" had landed in the country in "a flagrant threat to the security of citizens and residents."

The IRGC admitted it had fired "warning shots" toward unspecified "unapproved" vessels attempting to pass through channels not approved by Iran, prompting other ships to seek Iranian permits before attempting to cross the strait, state media reported.

The Strait of Hormuz remains a contentious point in reaching a permanent cease-fire deal,

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Few ships leaving as Iran foray continues

Commercial shipping traffic was trickling through the Strait of Hormuz Saturday as US allies in the Gulf strongly condemned an Iranian drone strike on Bahrain in a spate of violence that threatened to tank a peace deal.

The military strikes have slowed traffic in the vital waterway, which carries about 20% of global oil shipping.

The United Arab Emirates slammed the attack "in the strongest terms" while Kuwait, which houses major US bases, called it a "threat to the security and stability of the region." The foreign ministry of Bahrain, home to the US Navy's Fifth Fleet, denounced it as "a flagrant violation of Bahrain's sovereignty."

A tanker in the strait was also struck by a projectile, according to the UK's Maritime Trade Operations, just the latest in a series of vessels to come under fire. It said the ship was damaged but the crew was unharmed.

Ten commercial ships had passed through the critical waterway, Fox reported as of Saturday morning.

Oil prices have dropped to pre-war levels, ending the week at $72 per barrel for Brent crude.

Tensions flared once again in the region after an Iranian drone strike Thursday on a Singapore-flagged cargo ship along the coast of Oman prompted US military attacks on Iranian targets.

A US maritime body overseen by the military said it was expanding a route along Oman.

That move was seen as more brushback to Tehran, which inked a Memorandum of Understanding with the US where both sides agreed the strait would remain open for 60 days toll-free.

The body called the current threat level "substantial."

Vice President JD Vance, who was in Switzerland for Iran talks with Tehran on Monday, vowed Friday evening that violence by the Iranians would not continue. *Geoff Earle*

Hezbollah attacks Israel agreement

Hezbollah is threatening to blow up the historic framework peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon just one day after it was signed.

The Iran-backed terrorist group's leader Naim Qassem declared that the deal was "null and void" and called it a "grave blunder."

"The framework agreement in Washington is humiliating, shameful, and a surrender of sovereignty," he said.

"Linking the Israeli withdrawal to the disarmament of the resistance throughout Lebanon is a very dangerous proposition that crosses all red lines," he added.

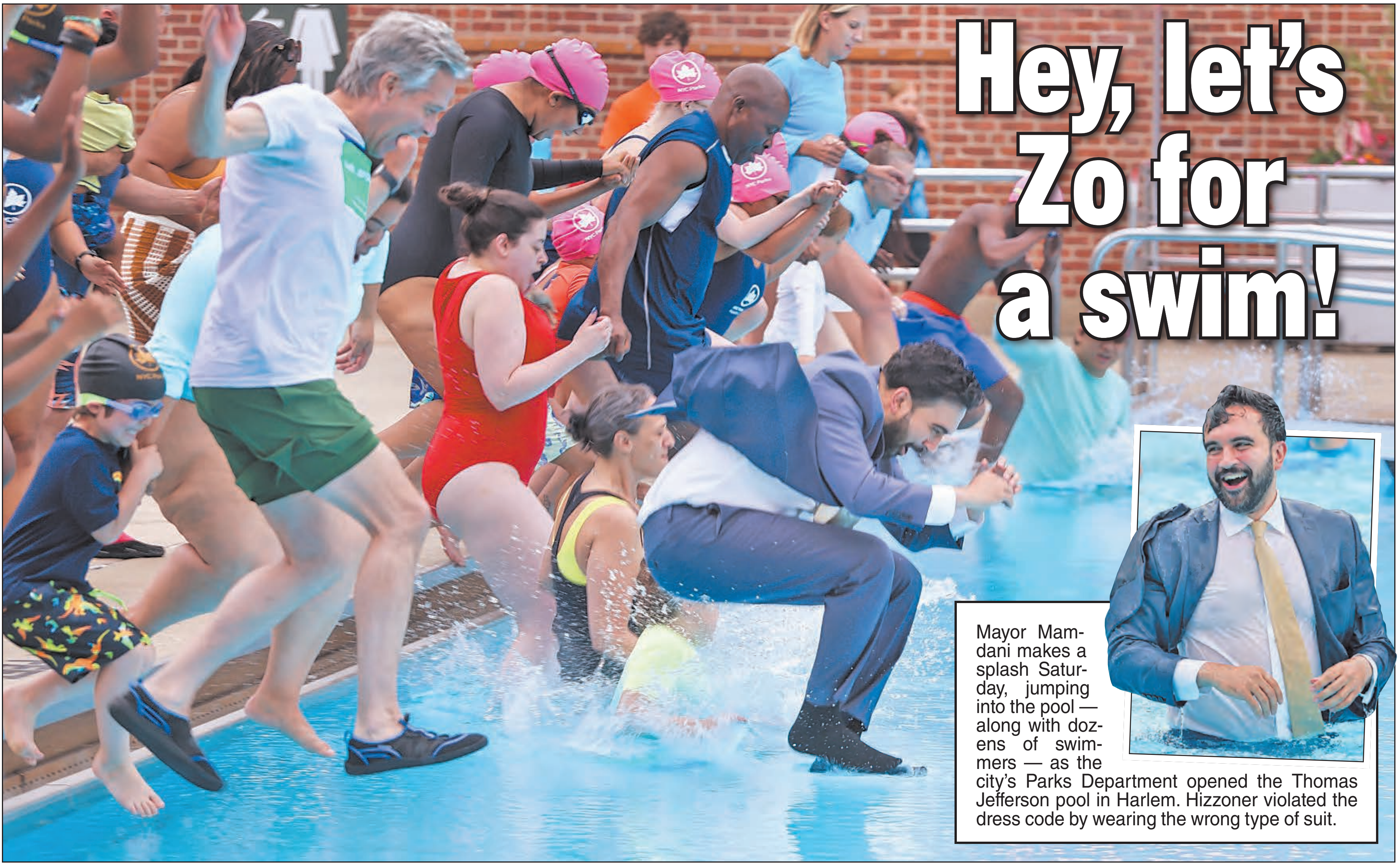
The framework called for the Lebanese Armed Forces to gradually assume control over areas in the country's south currently occupied by Israel — conditioned on the disarmament and clearing of Hezbollah forces.

Qassem called for the deal to be replaced with the Memorandum of Understanding reached between Iran and the US — which calls for the "immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

Hezbollah would continue to fight Israel and not disarm, he vowed.

"We did not leave the battlefield in the most difficult circumstances, and we will not leave it," Qassem said. *David Spector*

Hey, let's Zo for a swim!



Mayor Mamdani makes a splash Saturday, jumping into the pool — along with dozens of swimmers — as the city's Parks Department opened the Thomas Jefferson pool in Harlem. Hizzoner violated the dress code by wearing the wrong type of suit.

Michael Nagle for NY Post

Jail drops droning on

Drones have been used to drop packages stuffed with phones and drugs into two upstate correctional facilities in less than two months, according to the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association.

At around 1 a.m. May 26, a package of cellphones, charging cables, SIM cards, 15 vacuum-sealed bags of marijuana and bags of pills crashed from a drone into the yard of Wallkill Correctional Facility in Wallkill.

Just before 4 a.m. June 8, a drone dropped a package containing a green leafy substance believe to be of marijuana, 15 pills, a set of Apple earphones and phone charging cord at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining. A law that takes effect Aug. 25 bars the use of drones to deliver contraband into prisons.

Jeanne Erickson

HELL'S WAITING ROOM

Gilgo killer's new cold, bleak home

By TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

Before Gilgo Beach killer Rex Heuermann goes to hell, he's going to spend some time in hell on Earth.

It comes in the form of one of New York's oldest prisons, a bleak facility isolated in the frigid Adirondack Mountains near the Canadian border. Know as "Little Siberia," the infamous Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora opened in 1845 and has warehoused some of the nation's most evil killers.

It is also the scene of a dramatic jailbreak in 2015 that was immortalized on film.

The former Manhattan architect, who pleaded guilty to the murders of eight women, will join fellow Long Island serial killer Joel Rifkin and New York Zodiac killer Heriberto Seda behind its 60-foot-high, 7-foot-thick concrete walls "as the classification and assessment process continues," state prison spokesman Thomas Mailey said.

Clinton is the state's largest maximum-security lock-up, and many of its ancient cells measure roughly 6 by 8 feet, containing only a steel-framed bed, toilet, sink, and small writing surface.

Heuermann (inset), 62, will find himself alongside some of the worst serial killers in history, such as Rifkin, 67, who is serving a 203-year sentence for killing 17 prostitutes. Seda is serving 232 years for killing three people and wounding five in the early 1990s after becoming obsessed with California's infamous Zodiac Killer.

Seda, who shot and stabbed his victims, was caught before he could kill 12 people representing all the Zodiac signs.

A third serial killer, Altemio Sanchez, died in 2023 while serving 75 years to life at the prison. The "bike path rapist" killed three women between 1990 to 2007 in western New York.

Other noted killers at Dannemora (above) include former NYPD Officer Michael Valva, 47, who was convicted in the freezing death of his autistic 8-year-old son in 2020.

Convicted killers David Sweat and Richard Matt carried out an elaborate jailbreak June 6, 2015, drawing international attention.

Two prison employees — including Joyce Mitchell, a sewing instructor dubbed by The Post as the "Shawskank" because she was reportedly sleeping with both killers — helped them smuggle tools into the facility. The two cut through their steel cell walls, then navigated a maze of wiring corridors, and cut through a steam pipe to come out through a manhole outside the walls.

A three-week manhunt ensued covering 75 heavily wooded square miles. Matt was shot dead by law-enforcement officers and Sweat was shot and captured alive two days later. The breakout led to the 2018 miniseries "Escape at Dannemora."

Additional reporting by Sonya Gugliara

Miracle baby born amid rubble

LIGHT IN THE DARK: Dr. María Fernanda Terán (left) helped deliver a baby boy in the dark beside a collapsed building in the coastal city of La Guairá, the worst-hit area (above) in the shaken South American nation.

Reuters/Facebook

A ray of hope for Venezuela

By ADRY TORRES

A miracle baby boy was born in the dark beside a collapsed building in Venezuela, bringing hope to a country reeling after Wednesday's back-to-back earthquakes.

The two powerful earthquakes rattled Venezuela's northern coast, killing more than 1,400 people and injuring more than 3,200, according to data released by National Assembly leader Jorge Rodríguez.

Video footage showed a woman identified as Dr. María Fernanda Terán delivering the boy while his mother lay on the pavement in the coastal city of La Guairá, the worst-hit area in the South American nation.

Terán could be seen holding the newborn while a male bystander supports the upper half of his body. Another person later stepped in to drape an additional layer of covering over the mother.

The mother, who has not been identified, was rescued from a collapsed building and taken to a safety zone, where she went into labor. Local reports say the baby and mom are doing well.

"Bringing a Baby to the world while the earth shakes in #laguairavenezuela is the greatest challenge of my life," Terán wrote on her social media account.

Venezuelans celebrated the miraculous birth and showered Terán with praise.

"Amidst the darkness, there is light," one person commented. "Here is living proof; that treasure arrived to be a light."

"Because in the midst of misfortune, miracles still exist," another onlooker said.

'A blessing'

"That infant is a blessing and it is a blessing going through that storm," another follower said. "So beautiful."

"Girl, I'm so proud to be your colleague," one of Terán's coworkers added. "Go out there and do it for all of us doctors from Trujillo who want to be there but have to be here."

Terán couldn't be reached for comment.

Rodríguez on Friday said that close to 3,000 have lost their homes and that at least 1,400 building were damaged, including 13 hospital and 25 commercial facilities.

A 7.2-magnitude quake hit at 7:04 p.m. followed by a 7.5 magnitude just 39 seconds later, knocking down buildings in Caracas, the capital, and 15 other cities, leaving residents to scramble in search of their loved ones.

A *ruff, ruff* rescue

A viral video captured the moment firefighters rescued a dog alive from the rubble after two earthquakes devastated Venezuela.

The Caracas Fire Department said a unit concluded a search-and-rescue mission at a home when they heard a bark. Instead of abandoning the scene, the team was able to locate the dog and worked on a plan to pull it out safely.

The video showed the fireman sliding a bottle of water to the trapped pooch, who was pinned under a metal bar.

"We're going to get you out," one of the firefighters said in the video that was posted Thursday.

The crew cleared debris with their own hands before they were finally able to extract the dog from the remains.

"This extraordinary discovery has served as a symbol of hope for everyone at the disaster site," the department said. *Adry Torres*

Wife of ex-MLB player killed

The wife of former MLB outfielder Gorkys Hernández was killed in the double earthquakes that rocked Venezuela last week, he revealed Saturday.

"You are and always will be the queen of my life — the most beautiful, lovely, and precious woman in the world," Hernández wrote of Deisy Tovar de Hernández in a heartbreaking tribute on Instagram. "You were the one who always found a way to lift me up during hard times; you were and remain the most beautiful woman of my life. You will always be with me, at every hour and in every moment."

Hernández played in the majors from 2008-18, which included stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates, San Francisco Giants and Boston Red Sox.

"Love you — rest in peace, my girl," he added.

Deisy, 36, was among several family members of players on the La Guaira Delfines who were inside the Hotel Eduards while the team was getting ready to play the Aragua Tigres at the beachfront Estadio Forum de La Guaira in Macuto, La Guaira.

Hernández and his teammates rushed to the hotel in search of their loved ones after the game was suspended following the back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes that rattled the country.

Photos showed former Los Angeles Angels prospect Luis Viloria staring at the hotel rubble while Hernández was spotted sitting in front of the hotel fence as he stared at his cellphone.

Hernández married Deisy in December 2025. Deisy leaves behind a daughter, Vittoria Vásquez, from a previous relationship.

Local sports broadcaster Raúl Zambrano announced on X on Saturday that rescue teams were still searching for the wife and daughter of former major league catcher and Delfines coach, Eliézer Alfonzo.

Adry Torres

Shooting at bash for Cape Verde

At least four people were shot in a Boston suburb during a Cape Verde World Cup celebration that turned violent Friday night.

Hundreds of Cape Verde fanatics gathered in the downtown Brockton neighborhood when cops received multiple reports of gunfire on Main Street just before midnight, according to Boston 25 News.

"Officers responded to the intersection of Main Street and Park Street and found at least four people with gunshot wounds," the Brockton Police Department said in a statement.

The severity of the injuries and identities of the victims were not reported by authorities.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation into the gunfire is ongoing, according to reports.

Celebrations saw hundreds dancing, singing, waving flags and flooding the streets of Brockton before gunfire rang out — with video shared online showing fans hanging out of car windows.

Cape Verde tied with Saudi Arabia in a game that was played in Atlanta on Friday night.

The tiny African island nation — population 529,630 as of a 2026 United Nations projection — became the smallest country to qualify for the World Cup's knockout round with Friday's result.

Brockton is home to the largest Cape Verdean population in the US, according to NBC Boston.

Shane Galvin

'KEEPER 'EM OUT

Argentina World Cup 'ban' list

COUNTERATTACK: Argentine Minister of National Security Alejandra Monteoliva (below) sent the names to the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI ahead of Argentina's matches.

IMAGN IMAGES via Reuters; AFP via Getty Images

By NICK LABBAT

Red card!

Argentina has sent a list of 35,000 banned individuals — including 13,000 deadbeat dads who owe child support — to US authorities to keep them out of World Cup stadiums while their national team plays on American soil.

Argentine Minister of National Security Alejandra Monteoliva shipped the database to the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI and a group of international agencies ahead of Argentina's matches in the US.

Child support

"Those who are delinquent on child support payments will no longer be allowed to enter the stadiums," she said. "If you don't meet your obligations, you stay out of the stadiums."

The list comes from Argentina's Tribuna Segura — or "safe seats" — database, launched in Buenos Aires in 2016 and formalized as a national program in 2018. The system scans National Identity Documents at stadium entrances to flag anyone wanted by police or otherwise banned from attending soccer matches.

Thousands of parents who defaulted on child support were added on May 13 to the database. On June 11, the Argentine government formally transmitted the list to US law enforcement.

While the Tribuna Segura program is used nationally in Argentina, no similar program exists in the US.

One US law enforcement expert suggested maybe that should change.

"I think it's a valuable tool," said Michael Alcazar, a former NYPD detective and adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "People normally have their guards down when they're attending sporting events . . . and you could probably track and place into custody many offenders that way.

"As long as our court system is good with it."

From 2023 to 2025, the Tribuna Segura database identified more than 1,100 people with outstanding arrest warrants across over 1,300 matches, Argentine officials said.

Crackdown on skim bilk

A joint city and federal task force is targeting thieves who use skimming devices on ATMs to steal bank information ahead of the FIFA World Cup Final and celebrations for America's 250th birthday.

NYPD Detective James Lilla, of the regional Financial Crimes Task Force, said his team has been "upping our operations" to combat the thefts and help the tourists and locals.

"You have the influx of people coming in for FIFA," he said. "We're going to be out there informing people and seeing if we can develop leads on suspects who are doing the installments."

Comprised of the Secret Service and other federal and local agencies, the task force hits stores across the city looking for the devices, investigates when the thefts are reported, and tries to educate business owners and potential victims, Lilla said.

Tina Moore

$10K for a *crystal* ball

This is one blinged-out ball.

A FIFA 2026 soccer ball encrusted with over 20,000 Austrian crystals is on display at Serendipity 3 during the World Cup — and one lucky customer can score it for $10,000.

The bedazzled ball is sitting majestically behind glass at the famed eatery's Times Square location, with an accompanying QR code, that allows interested customers to put in an offer.

But so far, it hasn't gotten any bites.

Helayne Seidman for the NY Post

"No one has claimed the ball yet, but we're pushing it out there, hoping we do get a buyer," Serendipity 3's Creative Director, Joe Calderone, told The Post.

It took artist Susan Flanagan 200 hours to add the crystals.

Angela Barbuti

Vrabel son driving rap

‘Speeding, reckless’

By SONYA GUGLIARA

Mike Vrabel’s son Tyler was busted for reckless driving in Tennessee just weeks after the alleged affair between his dad and reporter Dianna Russini made headlines.

Tyler Vrabel, 26 — an offensive line coach at Boston College who had a brief stint in the NFL with the Atlanta Falcons — was charged with reckless driving, speeding and driving with an expired registration after getting pulled over in Brentwood in Williamson County on May 9, police records reviewed by The Post said.

Fast times

He was allegedly driving his black Ford F-150 truck at 71 mph in a 45 mph zone at around 8:15 a.m., the responding officer wrote in a criminal complaint.

“The truck was speeding past houses and other vehicles recklessly,” Brentwood officer Aaron Yoder said in the affidavit.

When Yoder pulled Tyler (inset) over, the younger Vrabel allegedly handed over a registration that expired in December 2024.

Charges against Tyler, an offensive line consultant and assistant coach at his alma mater, were filed on May 21, online records show.

He was hit with nearly $1,000 in fines from the incident, including a $250 fee for taking a blood alcohol test, records show.

Tyler — Mike Vrabel’s older of two children with his wife Jen — and the Brentwood Police Department did not immediately return requests for comment.

The incident came amid a frenzy around his father’s affair with Russini, a former sports reporter at The Athletic.

The scandal broke in April after damning snaps published by Page Six pictured the older Vrabel and Russini — both married to other people — cozied up together at a luxury hotel in Sedona, Ariz.

Both fiercely denied that there was anything romantic going on between them, but more photos of them enjoying trips together emerged.

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Don picks La. winner

Trump-endorsed Louisiana Rep. Julia Letlow claimed victory in a Senate Republican primary runoff Saturday — marking the latest display of the president’s primary election pull.

Letlow will be the GOP’s nominee come November, having received over 55% of the vote compared to her opponent, State Treasurer John Fleming, at 45% — with 41% of votes counted.

President Trump in January endorsed Letlow — elected in 2021 to fill the seat of her late husband, Luke, who died of complications from COVID-19 — in an effort to take down incumbent Sen. Bill Cassidy in a three-way race in May.

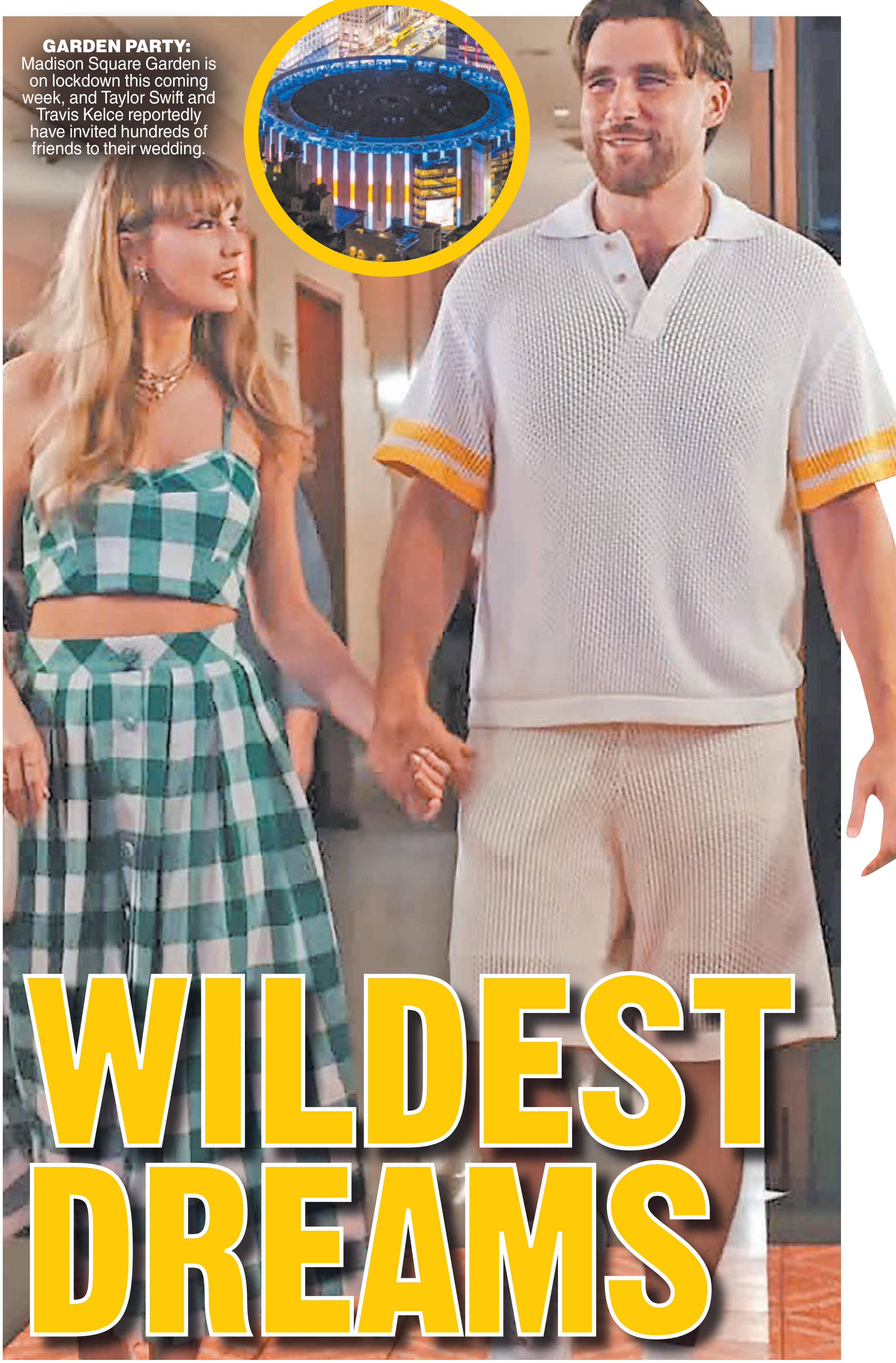
Her contest with Fleming tightened in a series of polls this month after she came in first in the primary.

Jamie Davis secured the Democratic nomination, beating rival Gary Crockett 78%-21%.

The president had a series of clashes with Cassidy, who voted to impeach him in 2021 after the Jan. 6 Capitol riot.

Geoff Earle

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce



GARDEN PARTY: Madison Square Garden is on lockdown this coming week, and Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce reportedly have invited hundreds of friends to their wedding.

te_university/Instagram, Getty Images, NFL and te_university// Instagram, Prime Video, TikTok/yaqueremospastel

WILDEST DREAMS

wedding singers set to include Stevie Nicks

By SARA NATHAN
and JEANETTE SETTEMBRE

IT'S one hell of a "Love Story."

Page Six is told that Stevie Nicks and Tim McGraw are set to perform at what some insiders are calling Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's "Wedding-palooza" at Madison Square Garden. The bride's first Billboard hit, when she was just 16 years old, was called "Tim McGraw."

Swift, who is renowned for giving fans "Easter egg" clues ahead of her album releases, dropped a major hint when she wore a shirt reading "Stevie Knicks" to Game 4 of the NBA Finals on June 10 at MSG.

"I've heard Taylor invited so many people it's going to be bigger than the Met Gala," one industry insider said.

This week, City Hall confirmed there is a permit at MSG for a bash on Friday for more than 1,000 people. An industry source told Page Six guests had been invited by text and email.

Page Six also confirmed there is a permit for a more intimate event for 100 people on Thursday — with a source saying it's a rehearsal dinner.

And many in the singer's crowd have long believed that the actual vows will take place before July 3.

"I think it's possible it's already happened," said the source.

Guest who

In Nashville, where Swift moved when she was just 14 to launch her music career, everyone is abuzz about the wedding.

Tennesseans Kenny Chesney and Kesha have both canceled tour dates around the wedding days and rumors are rampant that it's so they can attend the wedding, along with Dierks Bentley and members of Little Big Town and Sugarland.

"Kelsea Ballerini is definitely going," said one music source.

Nashville sources have heard "there's going to be multiple performances" at the Friday event at MSG, with rumors swirling that Paul McCartney, who famously took the stage with Swift at the "Saturday Night Live" 40th anniversary celebrations back in 2015, will perform.

However, the former Beatle is currently in the UK, Page Six is told.

But his fashion designer daughter, Stella McCartney, is one of Swift's friends and believed to be invited — and may have a hand in designing one of the bride's looks.

Indeed, Swift was recently seen wearing an outfit by McCartney in wedding white.

While Vogue undoubtedly came calling about featuring Swift and her gown, Page Six is told that she won't be posing for the fashion bible.

Invited guests include Swift's high school BFF Abigail Anderson, who is set to be maid of honor; Este, Danielle and Alana Haim; Zoë Kravitz, whose fiancé (and Swift ex), Harry Styles, is on tour; Ed Sheeran; Jack Antonoff and Margaret Qualley; Mariska Hargitay; and Cara Delevingne. San Francisco 49ers fullback Kyle Juszczyk and his fashion designer wife, Kristin, are on the list, as are Suki Waterhouse, Gigi Hadid and boyfriend Bradley Cooper, and Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco.

As Page Six previously reported, Blake Lively is not on the guest list after she and onetime BFF Swift fell out amid the actress' court battle with Justin Baldoni.

Kelce, meanwhile, has his Kansas City Chiefs teammates and staff, including Patrick Mahomes, George Kittle and coach Andy Reid.

The industry source said various "SNL" cast members are invited; Swift has performed as a musical guest on the show five times, hosted once, and made several cameos, while her fiancé has hosted once and made a cameo.

Emma Stone — who Swift's song "When Emma Falls in Love" is said to be about — is on the guest list, along with her husband, "SNL" writer Dave McCary.

License to thrill

While Kelce and Swift are set to throw a party to end all parties, those in her orbit have questioned whether they will tie the knot ahead of Friday.

Even some who know Swift say the couple's choice of venue surprised them.

"Something this big and lavish is somewhat antithetical to what those closest to her would have imagined for her wedding," a source in the singer's circle told Page Six. "And that's why many feel the MSG event will be a celebration of marriage that will have already occurred."

Security insiders at Manhattan's City Clerk's Office — where couples have to obtain a $35 wedding license to get married in New York state — insisted this week there had been no sign of a Swift license within recent days, adding, "we would know."

A New York state marriage license is valid for 60 days, with a 24-hour waiting period before a ceremony can be legally performed — though it's possible to get a judicial waiver to bypass that.

City Hall confirmed to The Post that a permit application was filed with the Street Activity Permit Office for July 2 to July 4, with 33rd Street blocked off.

A source who has worked within MSG told Page Six that it's easy to seal the venue and ensure that comings and goings are top secret.

"When you come down 33rd Street and turn left from the east, there is what looks like a garage. You then drive up a ramp which takes you right to stage level," according to the source. "Nobody will see a car coming in and who is being dropped off — it's the ultimate in privacy."

At stage level are dressing rooms that Swift could use for herself and her bridal party, the source said.

And rumors continue to fly that Swift has organized the ultimate Easter egg hunt — with speculation that guests will be picked up at MSG Thursday and taken to another location for a ceremony, then brought back for a big party.

"I keep hearing the MSG rumors are all a fake-out," said one music insider.

Swift is well known to be firmly in charge of everything she does — from buying back her recording masters to embarking on history's highest-grossing tour.

"I've learned not to ask questions. Taylor is in charge — I do as I'm told!" said one person who has worked closely with the "Love Story" star.

Swift showed she was the boss on her Disney docu-series, "The End of an Era," which took fans behind the scenes of her last tour, which raked in $2.2 billion.

Keeping quiet

However, there were also moments in it that shed light on just how hard it is to live in the full glare of the spotlight.

In an illuminating scene from the tour documentary, Swift told singer and good friend Ed Sheeran that she was planning to take off for two months after her London dates, adding, "I just don't want to be tracked like an animal. I've felt very hunted lately."

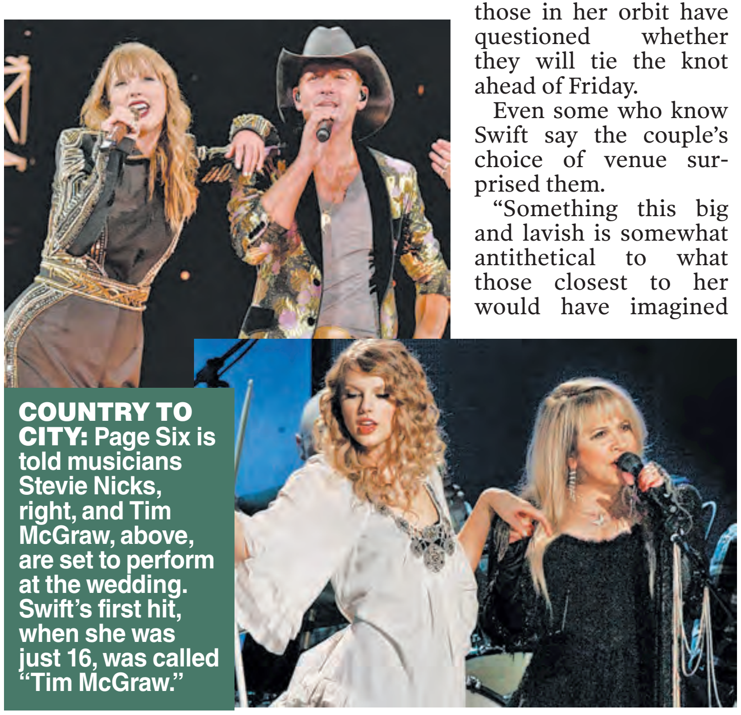
Everyone who could be involved with a wedding is staying tight-lipped, including Swift's wedding planner, Mark Seed.

"We've not heard anything definite," said Michael Wekselblatt, the president of IATSE Local One, the union representing stagehands, carpenters and technicians in the entertainment industry across NYC. "We have full jurisdiction [at MSG] . . . If something's happening, we're there."

As San Francisco 49ers player Kittle shared this week, "I actually asked Travis [about the MSG reports] last night and he laughed at me."

ONE MORE RING!

WHOLE NEW BALLGAME: Kelce partied at a NASCAR race (left) and a private club in Los Angeles for his bachelor weekend on June 20 and 21, alongside his Chiefs teammates. He also celebrated with a "tie-dye" cake nod to Kansas City's 2020, 2023 and 2024 Super Bowl victories.



COUNTRY TO CITY: Page Six is told musicians Stevie Nicks, right, and Tim McGraw, above, are set to perform at the wedding. Swift's first hit, when she was just 16, was called "Tim McGraw."

Rent vote backfire

Some will pay more: expert

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

MAKE THE ROAD NEW YORK
¡CONGELA LA RENTA!
NO INCREASES ON ALL LEASES
¡ALTO AL AUMENTO DE RENTA!
FREEZE THE RENT!
¡CONGELA LA RENTA!

Kevin C. Downs

Tenants living in the city's 1.1 million market-rate apartments are about to get stuck with the bill for the city's rent freeze, according to the only member of the city Rent Guidelines Board who is an economist and voted "no" on the freeze.

Arpit Gupta said landlords will likely jack up rents on market-rate units, as the rent-stabilized market stalls with tenants incentivized to stay put and owners forced to pull vacant units off the market.

"I think of this as trying to breathe with one lung," said Gupta, an economist and associated professor of finance at New York University's Stern School of Business. "You have one half of the housing market now that's just going to be frozen in place, so all the demand has to be accommodated by just the market-rate units, so I expect upward pressure on rents to those."

The RGB approved Mayor Mamdani's key campaign promise to "freeze the rent" for two years Thursday by a 7-1 vote.

Roughly 1.3 million rental units out of the city's 2.3 million are outside the rent-stabilized system, including some 1.1 million market rate units, the most common type of rental, representing 48% of units, according to the RGB's 2026 Housing Supply Report.

There are 960,700 rent-stabilized units across the five boroughs according to the same report, but 57,000 of them are sitting vacant. That's up a record 9,000 since last year, according to a state's Division of Homes and Community Renewal letter sent to the RGB earlier this month.

As many as 30% of rent-stabilized tenants earn six figures, according to the city's Housing and Vacancy Survey.

"The key thing is the rent stabilized stock is not income restricted or targeted in any way," said Gupta. "Many people in market-rate housing are quite poor . . . and they'll face upward pressure on their rents ." Gupta said the other members of the board voted yes because they assume taxpayers will ultimately foot the bill under the socialist mayor.

Hunt for runaway NJ teens

Police are searching for two young teens who ran away from New Jersey on Friday and were last seen fleeing MTA officers at a Connecticut train station, according to a report.

Braydon Morrisey, 14, Dominic Dilberto, 14, and William Connolly, 17, took off from Montville Township late Thursday and were seen at Denville station early Friday evening, triggering a missing persons investigation with K-9s and drones.

On Saturday, MTA police detained Connolly at the Stamford train station, but the two 14-year-olds evaded protective custody and fled, according to Fox News.

Montville Police Chief Andrew Caggiano said, "We don't have anything to say that they're dangerous to themselves or others.

"It's just because of their age . . . we're just following a missing persons investigation." *Daniel Cody*

Post Weather Report

AccuWeather. Proven Superior Accuracy™ Visit AccuWeather.com

Sunday

Today: Humid with clouds and sun. High 78 to 84.

Tonight: Partly cloudy and humid. Low 65 to 71.

Monday

Tomorrow: Sunshine and a few clouds. High 82 to 88.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 67 to 73.

Tuesday

A heavy t-storm. High 86 to 92.

Evening
T-storm possible. Low 69 to 75.

Wednesday

Hazy sun and hot. High 92 to 98.

Evening
Very warm. Low 78 to 84.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

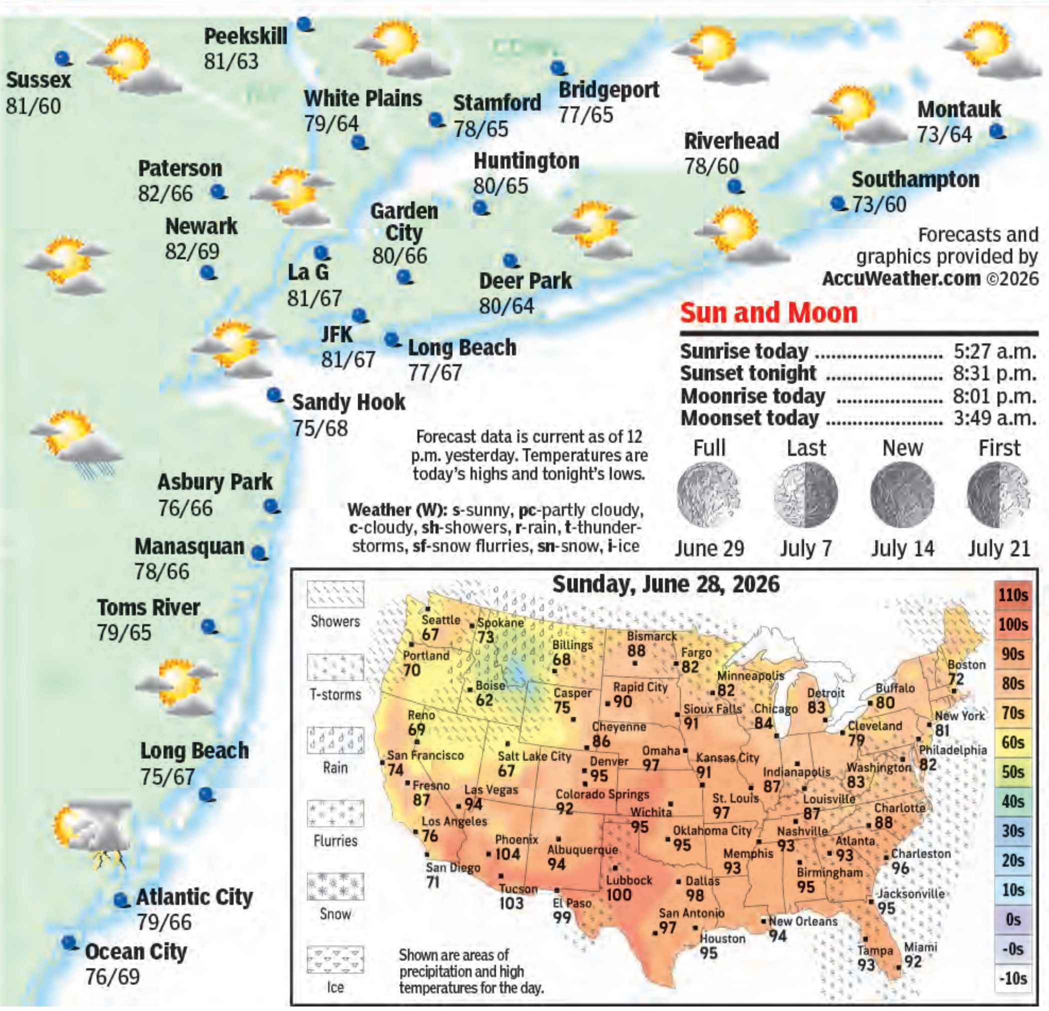
Temperature
High: 77, Low: 73, Mean: 75

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: 0 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.01", Month: 3.26",
Year: 17.69", Normal year to date: 23.33"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 10
Total for the month (normal) 226 (194)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 364 (275)
Last year to date 287
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 74
UV Index (for Sun.) .... 7 (High)
Humidity (at noon) 87%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Trees, Grasses, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) ....Moderate


Sussex
81/60
Peekskill
81/63
White Plains
79/64
Stamford
78/65
Bridgeport
77/65
Montauk
73/64
Riverhead
78/60
Southampton
73/60
Paterson
82/66
Huntington
80/65
Garden City
80/66
Newark
82/69
La G
81/67
Deer Park
80/64
JFK
81/67
Long Beach
77/67
Sandy Hook
75/68
Asbury Park
76/66
Manasquan
78/66
Toms River
79/65
Long Beach
75/67
Atlantic City
79/66
Ocean City
76/69
Sunday, June 28, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 67
Spokane 73
Portland 70
Billings 68
Bismarck 88
Fargo 82
Boise 62
Casper 75
Rapid City 90
Minneapolis 82
Reno 69
Cheyenne 86
Sioux Falls 91
Chicago 84
Detroit 83
Buffalo 80
Boston 72
New York 81
Cleveland 79
Philadelphia 82
San Francisco 74
Salt Lake City 67
Denver 95
Omaha 97
Kansas City 91
Indianapolis 87
Washington 83
Fresno 87
Las Vegas 94
Colorado Springs 92
Wichita 95
St. Louis 97
Louisville 87
Charlotte 88
Los Angeles 76
Phoenix 104
Albuquerque 94
Oklahoma City 95
Nashville 93
Atlanta 93
Memphis 93
Charleston 96
San Diego 71
Birmingham 95
Tucson 103
El Paso 99
Lubbock 100
Dallas 98
Jacksonville 95
San Antonio 97
Houston 95
New Orleans 94
Tampa 93
Miami 92
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:27 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:31 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 8:01 p.m.
Moonset today .... 3:49 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
June 29	July 7	July 14	July 21

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	7:25a	7:40p	8:08a	8:18p
Fire Island	7:19a	7:54p	8:02a	8:34p
Hempstead	11:44a	11:40p	12:20p	---
Huntington	11:26a	11:27p	12:04p	---
Jones Inlet	7:09a	7:24p	7:52a	8:02p
Montauk Point	8:42a	9:03p	9:27a	9:46p
Port Washington	11:54a	11:50p	12:31p	---
Sandy Hook	7:29a	7:44p	8:12a	8:22p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	85/60/s	88/65/s
Danbury	79/62/pc	86/63/s
Glens Falls	83/54/s	86/58/s
Gr Barrington	82/57/s	85/61/s
Kingston	84/60/pc	88/63/s
Liberty	77/57/pc	84/61/s
Monticello	79/55/pc	82/59/s
Newburgh	83/62/pc	87/65/s
Poughkeepsie	82/61/pc	88/63/s
Saratoga Springs	85/57/s	87/62/s
Stroudsburg	80/62/pc	87/66/s
Torrington	80/60/s	86/62/s
Syracuse	85/62/s	87/67/s

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	90/72/s	94/72/s
Baghdad	109/86/s	111/87/s
Beijing	87/68/t	80/67/c
Berlin	106/74/t	76/65/t
Cairo	96/75/pc	99/75/pc
Dublin	67/53/pc	69/57/c
Geneva	99/69/s	82/66/t
Hong Kong	89/83/r	91/83/r
Jerusalem	86/67/s	87/68/s
Kabul	95/69/pc	97/72/pc
London	79/55/pc	78/61/pc
Madrid	91/67/pc	95/71/s
Mexico City	75/56/r	73/58/r
Montreal	81/64/s	83/68/s
Moscow	73/58/sh	69/57/r
Paris	90/62/t	84/59/pc
Rio de Janeiro	79/69/pc	81/70/pc
Rome	94/72/s	93/71/s
Sydney	63/52/r	65/55/pc
Tokyo	76/68/sh	83/69/t

Michael Goodwin

mgoodwin@nypost.com

Kathy can't sate hunger of far lefties

Shutterstock

THE political threats aimed at Gov. Hochul by mad-dog leftists are almost enough to make you feel sorry for her. Almost.

The hitch is that Hochul has only herself to blame. She ignored the warning not to feed the alligators.

Instead, she foolishly assumed Mayor Mamdani and his ravenous crew of radicals would be satisfied when she gave them billions of taxpayer dollars for their Socialist agenda.

Chomp, chomp, but that only whetted the alligators' appetite for more, and now the governor is on the menu.

"She knows we're coming for her," declared a boastful Gustavo Gordillo, co-chair of the city wing of the Democratic Socialists of America.

A comrade who runs the DSA political team, Osman Chaudhary, even claimed that "we have a Democratic Socialist mandate in New York City."

Dems vs. Dems

After Tuesday's results, he might have a point. Although turnout was abysmally low in most areas, DSA candidates were superbly organized and emerged undefeated in a select group of congressional and legislative primaries against incumbent Democrats.

With zero chance that a Republican will win a general election race in those districts, November will usher in a new wave of radicals for Congress and the state Legislature.

In effect, the political battleground is being reshaped. Instead of left vs. right, it is now increasingly a battle of left vs. far left.

In addition to Hochul, state Attorney General Letitia James was caught off guard by the success of the Mamdani acolytes.

James was cheering him on when he won the mayoralty, but was seething over Tuesday's results. She told CNN that "Some of the candidates that he supported are individuals who do not understand the politics of New York City, the cultural differences from district to district, who have not been part of the history and the struggle of some of these districts, and are relatively new to the body politic."

She seemingly doesn't realize that blowing up the Democratic Party is the whole point. The Mamdani movement is not interested simply in defeating Republicans.

It aims to destroy the priorities and leaders of the Democratic Party because it views them as not sufficiently different from Republicans. The young insurgents, whom I regard as the worst generation, want government at all levels to have more power and more money so they can impose their benighted views on every nook and cranny of American life.

To hell with the private sector and individual rights, they declare themselves the sole arbiters of right and wrong.

Indoctrinated instead of educated at largely elite colleges, they are ignorant of human nature and basic economic principles. That many are also antisemites illustrates how little they understand about events that took place before they were born.

The only hope is that millions of New York voters will realize that the radicals cannot be trusted with more power. Already, working middle and professional classes have watched helplessly as Albany and City Hall raised taxes and spending beyond reasonable limits.

Yet it is never enough to satisfy the left's rapacious appetite for more.

In recent years, violent crime and a soaring cost of living sparked an exodus of middle-income families and wealthy voters from New York.

The shrinking GOP has been marginalized, and those trends accelerated when Mamdani captured City Hall last year and raised his red flag over America's largest city.

Shape shifter

Hochul, in her fifth year in office, has spent too much time shape-shifting her political identity. She poses as a moderate when she thinks it will help her, but it's a ruse to fool those not paying close attention.

Her record reveals she is a tax-and-spend leftist who spews platitudes about the sky-high cost of living, but lacks the courage to do anything that would require her to take on her own party.

Indeed, the targeting of her by the Mamdani crew now is possible only because they know she is a weather vane and not guided by strong convictions. They won't vote against her, they just want to scare her so she does their bidding.

Like most of New York's Democratic leadership, she initially opposed Mamdani's push for higher income and corporate taxes.

But she broke with the establishment to endorse him in the mayor's race, and after his victory began yielding on his reckless agenda.

Although she continued to reject his demand for higher income and corporate taxes by saying it would drive even more taxpayers to Florida, she soon forked over billions of state dollars to fund his handouts.

She also pushed through the Legislature a pied-à-terre tax on second homes valued at more than $5 million, promising it will yield $500 million annually to Mamdani before she even figured out the details.

Of course, her moves were designed to help her re-election bid as much as help Mamdani deliver his red agenda.

That's because the math of statewide elections is clear. Republicans get the majority of votes in lightly populated counties, but Democrats win by running up huge margins in the city, parts of Long Island and Westchester, along with urban areas like Buffalo.

Gov's leverage

Hence Hochul's help to Mamdani, and it's working for her so far. Polls show her running far ahead of GOP nominee Bruce Blakeman, the Nassau County executive.

A Siena poll last week found Hochul padding her lead over him to 20 points, a gain of four points since April.

In that context, the threats against her by the Mamdani crew shrink in importance. They can make her life difficult, but she knows they're never going to vote for Blakeman.

That gives her space to move toward the middle, but don't count on that happening. It would take more courage and conviction than she has shown.

Rent freeze chilling to a free market

After Mayor Mamdani promised to freeze rents for two years in nearly a million rent-stabilized apartments, the lefties on the Rent Guidelines Board saluted and delivered for him.

Here is some of how he gloated afterward:

"This is a historic victory for New York City tenants. After reviewing the data and hearing from New Yorkers across the city, the independent RGB has delivered a freeze on one-year leases, and the first-ever freeze on two-year leases in our city's history. This is the relief that working people across our city deserve."

He also vowed that, "I'll continue working to deliver a more affordable city by building and preserving affordable housing, lowering building operating costs like insurance, and ensuring tenants know their rights."

In plain English, he's warning that private-sector owners must realize they have no rights to cover their costs, let alone to make a profit.

And oh, by the way, developers shouldn't even think of building rental units here. The free housing market in New York is dead.

Long live the revolution!

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Bid is pitch perfect

TALK about a baller. Billionaire **John Catsimatidis** made the winning $100,000 bid for an authentic signed Babe Ruth baseball at the 17th Annual Catholic Charities Gala, Page Six is told. This year's gala took place at the American Museum of Natural History. Other auction items included an overnight trip to a New York Giants away game on the team's private jet as well as a private dinner for 20 at Archbishop **Ronald A. Hicks**' residence. The auction raised more than $600,000. The event was hosted by the archbishop and **J. Antonio Fernandez**, president and CEO of Catholic Charities of New York.

Pope's new perks

NEW York City chef **Salvo LoCastro**, who owns Casasalvo in Soho, was back at the Vatican this week after having spent years cooking for Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. We hear he met with **Pope Leo XIV**, gifting him a gold espresso pot. Earlier this week, Page Six reported that **Jonathan Safran Foer** and a number of other literary luminaries met with his holiness, with the "Everything's Illuminated" author gifting the pope (above) a sold-out Knicks yarmulke. Leo has a special connection to the team — he's a Villanova alum, as are several Knicks.

'Style' kept hush for Tay nups

IT'S all being shrouded in a lavender haze. We hear fashion and jewelry houses have been fielding unusually cryptic requests from stylists for guests expected to attend **Taylor Swift** and **Travis Kelce**'s closely guarded wedding celebration next week.

"Stylists normally say the event when they pull," says a source. "Requests are coming in from Swift's friends where they say 'event' or 'private occasion.' It's so tight-lipped. No one is putting anything in writing."

We're told brands aren't even being given exact dates that people will need the items by — just vague windows of time.

Another source tells us that NDAs are in place to make sure nothing gets leaked.

An insider said that while some guests may be pulling looks, others may be having outfits made custom or bringing couture pieces in from Europe.

As for the bride, don't expect just one showstopping dress. A source told Page Six last week that Swift is expected to have multiple outfit changes throughout the celebration and will select from several custom bridal designs before making her final choice on what to wear down the aisle.

Monse designers **Laura Kim** and **Fernando Garcia** — the former creative directors at Oscar de la Renta — have created a custom look that's considered a leading contender, said a source.

The design duo dressed Swift for some of her biggest fashion moments, including the 2024 MTV VMAs, the 2021 Grammy Awards, the Eras Tour, **Selena Gomez**'s wedding and, most recently, Kelce's Tight End University festivities in Nashville, Tenn.

Their bridal résumé is impressive, dressing **Amal Clooney**, **Paris Hilton** and **Naomi Watts** for their big days.

Swift and Kelce's wedding is expected to take place over July 3 weekend at Madison Square Garden, with guests including **Ed Sheeran**, **Gigi Hadid**, **Suki Waterhouse**, **Cara Delevingne** and more.

My, he's one tall royal lad! Prince George, about to turn 13, is as tall as mum Kate at a British Armed Forces Day celebration.

The Prince and Princess of Wales/Instagram

Pre-party kinks

THE Pines Party — Fire Island's biggest annual bash — was almost derailed by an orgy last year. **Guy Smith**, who has produced the beach event since 2013, told **Jess Rothschild** on the podcast "Finding Fire Island" that one of his volunteers threw a birthday sex party in the staff house last year while the rest of the crew was supposed to be getting ready for the next morning's load-in. "I walked in with my assistant," Smith said. He calmly confronted the frisky organizer: "I don't know where you got the unmitigated gall to think that you could throw a sex party in my house that I rented for my staff. But if everyone that's here [who shouldn't be] is not gone, and everyone that is supposed to be here is not in bed, when I come back in 30 minutes, I can't be held responsible for what I do to you." We're told they complied.

Sightings

RICHARD Kirshenbaum hosting an event for the Princess Grace Foundation in East Hampton with Grace's nephew **Chris Le Vine**, **Julie** and **Billy Macklowe**, **Sydney Sadick**, **Tanya Zuckerbrot** and power publicist **Alison Brod**.

Grim 'Reality'

KATE Gosselin is allegedly freaking out over what estranged son **Collin** will reveal in his upcoming memoir, "In the Shadow of Eight: Surviving the Reality of My Childhood." "Kate had no idea this book was in the works," an insider told the Daily Mail Saturday, noting the TLC alum, 51, hasn't spoken to Collin since she institutionalized him as a child. "She didn't expect any of this to ever come out. Now she's spiraling because she knows it's about to hit the fan," they continued. Kate, who shares the 22-year-old with ex-husband **Jon Gosselin**, has allegedly told people that her son's accusations are based off of "zero facts." However, Collin claims he has "the evidence to back everything up."

Jewish film weds grief and love

JEWISH advocate **Hen Mazzig** is starring in a short documentary exploring the cost of being a public voice in a time of rising antisemitism. The film follows the Israeli-born activist — whose social media posts have been shared by **Pink**, **Amy Schumer** and **Gal Gadot** — and his husband, **Marc Jorden**, preparing for their wedding as "they grapple with profound questions of acceptance, community and resilience in the aftermath of October 7," according to a synopsis. In one moment, they start the guest list for their big day and take stock of the relationships they had lost as a result of Mazzig speaking out. "I wish I could tell you there's a shortcut through that kind of loss," Mazzig told us. "There isn't. Losing people you love because you're openly Jewish, or Jewish-adjacent like my husband, is a grief most of us never expected to carry." But he added, "The people who stay, and the ones who show up when you least expect it, become your chosen family . . . Don't shrink yourself to keep anyone else comfortable. The people worth building a life with will never ask you to hide who you are to earn their love."

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Page Six®

Eva Longoria has a fine time with fine wine on the beach in Marbella as she enjoys her Mediterranean summer with hubby **José “Pepe” Bastón** and their brood — including pets.

/ SplashNews.com

Hair-raising tale

OPRAH Winfrey continues to face backlash over her claim that Whitney Houston had relapsed when she appeared on Winfrey’s talk show in 2009, an appearance that was supposed to herald the singer’s comeback after a stint in rehab. Winfrey claimed this week that Houston was high and fell off the stage during the taping. Winfrey was met with a swift rebuke from, among others, Houston’s estate, which said the singer fell not because she was on drugs but because the stage was too dark. Now Houston’s hairstylist **Tiffanie Dixon** is also calling Winfrey’s version of events baloney. “It’s not true. She fell because they did not rope off the stage . . . I was standing right there,” Dixon said online during a conversation with Houston fan **Quencie Thomas**. Dixon said Winfrey had people sign NDAs and threatened that “she’ll fire her staff if it gets out [that Houston, who died in 2012, fell].” But Dixon maintains that Houston “was not high.” Dixon spoke out because she said Winfrey’s words “disturbed me.” “It’s not true . . . There’s not truth and no validity . . . It’s a lie . . . She’s got a lot of nerve,” she said.

Perusseau / BACKGRID

“Streetware” mogul **Raven Tracy** parties hearty with **King Combs** (son of **Diddy**) in Paris.

More celebrity photos at PageSix.com

Sardi’s intermission

THEATERGOERS will have to find a new favorite haunt to grab a bite before a show. Broadway’s Sardi’s — known for its caricatures of stars on the walls and attracting a crowd that has included everyone from Laurence Olivier and Elizabeth Taylor to **Lin-Manuel Miranda** — closed this week for renovations, and will be shut for several months. This comes after owner **Max Klimavicius** sold the nearly century-old restaurant to its landlord, the Shubert Organization. Renovations will focus on the lighting, ventilation and plumbing. Klimavicius told The New York Times in March that the famed art — which includes portraits of everyone from **Barbra Streisand** to **David Hasselhoff** — was appraised in 2020 at $6.9 million and will stay in storage until the spot reopens.

Author’s backstory

LITERARY fans were treated to a one-man show this week at the 92nd Street Y, when “L.A. Confidential” author **James Ellroy** voiced a wide range of colorful characters featured in his new novel, “Red Sheet,” and he didn’t shy away from dropping the F-bombs found on some of its pages, said a spy. We’re told the “Black Dahlia” scribe revealed during an audience Q&A that he hasn’t lived in LA in 40 years, explaining, “I only go back to LA for book tours, when women divorce me and to shag my ass into rehab.”

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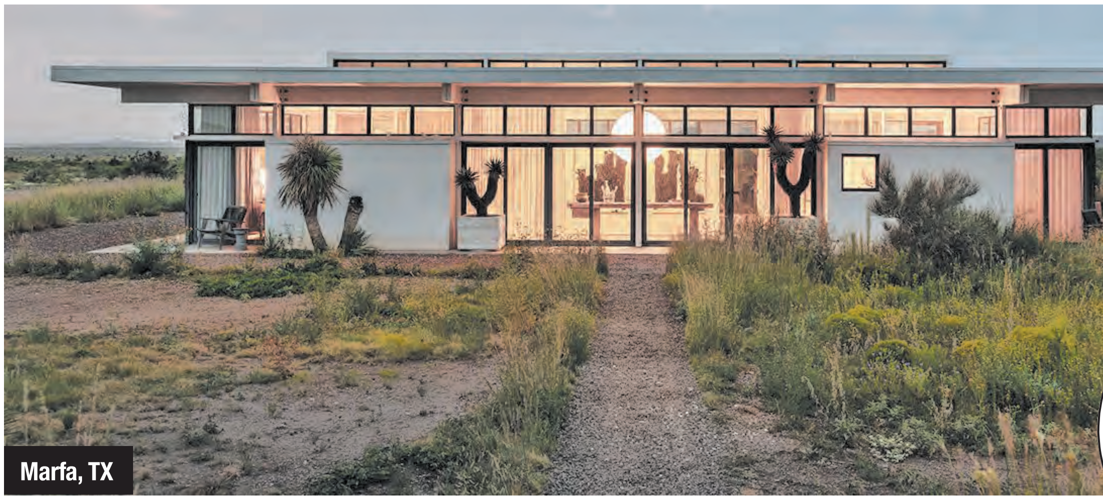

Marfa, TX

Douglas Friedman

Selling his Lone Star estate

ACCLAIMED shutterbug **Douglas Friedman** (inset) has an eye for beauty — and beautiful homes.

The jet-setting photographer has just sold his desert dream house in Marfa, Texas for around $2.4 million, Gimme Shelter can reveal. He told Gimme he'll miss the peace and quiet, as living in this remote area ended up being "incredibly relaxing and rejuvenating."

Texas is a "nondisclosure state." That means the price of home sales are legally kept secret from the public.

Known as the Friedman Ranch, the modern dwelling at 2405 Antelope Hills Road first hit the market for $3.7 million last February. It was asking $2.99 million last September, as Gimme reported.

The buyer, we hear, is an East Coast financier.

"After more than a decade of blood, sweat, laughter and tequila ... I sold @thefriedmanranch," Friedman posted on Instagram.

"Who would have thought that this dusty and derelict piece of land would become one of the 50 most beautiful homes in the @archdigest book. I'm very proud of what happened down there. Marfa is still home, just in a new and different way," Friedman added.

The property sits on 10 acres and abuts thousands of acres of cattle ranch land.

When Gimme last spoke to Friedman, he said he was planning to focus on his Long Island home and "another idea in West Texas."

This month, Friedman's photos of his Eastern Long Island property — a Brookhaven residence that was built in 1870 — are featured in Architectural Digest. Friedman's pal and top AD100 designer **Steven Gambrel** created the interiors, while the iconic home-life maven **Martha Stewart** designed the gardens.

At 2,300 square feet, the Marfa ranch comes with three bedrooms and two baths, a floating roof design — and stunning views of the Davis and Haystack Mountains.

Gambrel, along with **Nicole Hollis** and **Brigette Romanek**, helped create the interiors, which included de Gournay hand-painted wallpaper, and Isamu Noguchi lanterns and marble tables.

The house was also featured in AD's book, "Architectural Digest at 100: A Century of Style," published by Rizzoli in 2019.

It features retractable screens to keep out dust and scorpions, and a clerestory window band.

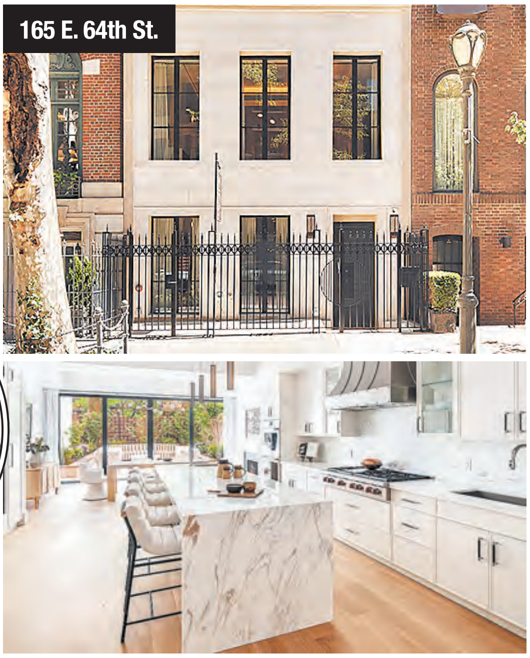
Inside, there's an open layout that features a chef's kitchen, a living and dining area, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and hidden storage.

Outside, the grounds include a shaded structure known as a desert palapa, as well as a container lap pool, a hot tub, solar power and a private well.

The dramatic landscaping includes local prairie grasses and trees. Friedman once told Gimme he planted 10 oak trees, as well as mesquite and desert sage.

Marfa has been an art-world destination since sculptor Donald Judd first visited in 1971.

The listing brokers were **Jeff Burke** and **Fredrik Eklund** of Douglas Elliman's Eklund Gomes Team.


165 E. 64th St.

Real Estate Production Network

A new landmark

A RARE gut-renovated turn-of-the-century townhouse on tony East 64th Street has found a buyer within three weeks — and it's an all-cash deal.

The limestone residence at 165 E. 64th St., between Lexington and Third avenues, was asking $18.5 million. The buyer is an international financier who has agreed to pay close to the home's asking price, a source said.

The seller, developer Titanium Property Group, bought the property for $6.5 million in 2024 and completely gutted it — including the facade.

It turns out that the wrong side of the tracks on the Upper East Side may becoming the right side: If the house had been a block west, the renovation would not have been possible. That's because East 64th Street, from Fifth to Lexington avenues, is part of the Upper East Side Historic District.

It's impossible to touch the facade of landmarked homes. But there are no such restrictions for similar homes east of Lexington, said the home's listing broker, townhouse expert **Charlie Attias**, of Compass.

And while the house was not built on the site of a teardown, it was essentially "brand new — from the foundation to the plumbing, electricity and windows, plus a new floor was added." Details include 10-foot-high ceilings and a glam chef's kitchen.

NYC-ya later!

POWER publicist and entrepreneur **Jessica Schaefer** (right) is listing her Tribeca loft for $4.29 million — and it comes with a "900-pound" sauna on the terrace. "I'm fleeing Mamdani's taxes. I actually didn't think it was possible to pay more in taxes!" she quipped. The apartment, at 116 Hudson St., was asking $4.25 million last year. Schaefer bought it for $3.99 million in 2024, according to property records.

The glam loft takes up the full second floor of a building developed by **Robert De Niro**'s Hudson Street Properties LLC and AFC Reality Capital.

The full-floor condo is on the building's second floor — and it features a sprawling 640-square-foot terrace with that massive outdoor sauna that, Schaefer said, had to be dropped onto the terrace by crane.

And it is already garnering attention from boldface names who have expressed interest in the property — including luxury fashion brand Bronx Banco's **Natalie De'Banco**, whose clients include **Jennifer Lopez** and **Selena Gomez**, sources said.

At 2,024 square feet, the soundproofed, modern loft features two bedrooms and 2.5 baths.

The home opens from keyed elevator access to a welcoming great room with large windows, an exposed brick wall, a woodburning fireplace and 10-foot-high ceilings. There's also an open chef's kitchen.

As a publicist, Schaefer founded Capital V Strategies last year after selling her previous company, Bevel. Her clients have included Mets owner **Steve Cohen**'s Point72 and Coinbase.

The listing brokers of the Hudson St. condo are **Carl Gambino** and **Oliver Gold** of Compass.

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BACK IN THE SWING OF THINGS

Serena is latest superstar athlete who can't resist a comeback

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE

Last Sunday, when it was announced that Serena Williams would be competing in the ladies' singles at Wimbledon via a wild card — nearly four years after she retired to much fanfare — many were shocked.

But those in-the-know in the tennis world say the move makes perfect sense: The 44-year-old GOAT is in great condition and, like many star athletes, craves the spotlight she had for so long.

"Having seen videos of her practicing, seeing her competing in doubles, she looks great," Matthew Futterman, author of the forthcoming book "The Cruelest Game: Chasing Greatness in Professional Tennis" (Doubleday, Aug. 4), told The Post. "She's serving great. She still has a lot of tennis in her hands."

Futterman notes that Williams joins the rank of stars in other sports — like Michael Jordan and Tom Brady — who have retired only to not be able to stay away from the sport they excelled in.

And, while Williams has kept busy in recent years with a number of ventures in entertainment and tech, "there is no business meeting or fashion shoot that can replicate the thrill of competition in elite sport when the whole world is watching," Futterman said. "Who wouldn't want to try to experience that a few more times if they could?"

When Williams signed off in 2022, she cited motherhood as a driving factor. At that point, she had only one child, daughter Olympia, whom she gave birth to in 2017. After a fairly smooth pregnancy, she had to have an emergency C-section and endured life-threatening complications in its wake that she said she "was lucky to survive."

Around the time of her retirement, Williams expressed frustration at struggling to have it all — perhaps foreshadowing the fact that she wasn't done on the court.

"I never wanted to have to choose between tennis and a family. I don't think it's fair. If I were a guy, I wouldn't be writing this because I'd be out there playing and winning while my wife was doing the physical labor of expanding our family. Maybe I'd be more of a Tom Brady if I had the opportunity," she told Vogue in August 2022.

When addressing why she chose to come back, Williams gave a simple answer.

"Why not? For lack of a better explanation," she said earlier this month, when it had only been revealed that she would be competing in doubles, not singles.

And while she initially retired for family reasons, her daughters — she and her husband, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian, welcomed their second child, Adira, in 2023 — would also seem to be a key motivation for coming back.

"For me right now, it's really just about . . . my kids getting to see me play," Williams said at a press conference earlier this month.

LOVE ALL: Serena Williams has two daughters, Olympia (right) and Adira, with husband Alexis Ohanian.

An anonymous tennis insider told Page Six that Williams' return to Wimbledon, which starts Monday, likely has younger players shaking in their sneakers.

"They're probably pretty scared — they all know what she's capable of," they told The Post of her competition, like top seeds Aryna Sabalenka, 28, and Elena Rybakina, 27. "They all grew up watching her; in awe of her. Now, she's going to be back on the other side of the net. For them, [and] for others, they never faced her before — that takes some adjustment."

'Nothing left to prove'

Williams, who has won a whopping 23 Grand Slam titles, is also likely to be in a good place mentally.

"She had nothing left to prove," Futterman said. "She's come back from all the pivotal moments — she's done everything. She won a Grand Slam while pregnant. She's kind of Superwoman already."

Indeed, Williams has kept plenty busy since her supposed retirement.

Via her venture capital firm, Serena Ventures, she's invested in more than 80 companies in her portfolio, including MasterClass, workout company Tonal and Ro Weight Loss, for which she serves as spokesperson and celebrity ambassador.

In April 2023, she started her own production company, Nine Two Six Productions, following the mega success of the Oscar-nominated biopic "King Richard," which told the true story of her father and his coaching Venus and Serena from the public courts in Compton, Calif., to pro fame. Williams, along with sisters Venus and Isha Price, was an executive producer on the film, which starred Will Smith.

In April 2024, Williams launched her makeup brand WYN Beauty, a line of vegan, cruelty-free cosmetics designed for athletes and active consumers in tennis ball-colored packaging.

Getty Images (3), serenawilliams/Instagram

NET OF KIN: Serena (far right) will also compete in doubles at Wimbledon with her sister Venus Williams.

This past May, she attended the Met Gala, wearing a metallic Marc Jacobs minidress with gladiator heels, to support sister Venus, who served as one of the co-chairs of the 2026 event alongside Beyoncé, Nicole Kidman and Anna Wintour.

Earlier this year she co-starred in "The CEO Club," a reality docuseries focusing on entrepreneurship

"[She] was super excited to be part of the show," a source close to the production told The Post. "[Even though she was] juggling the kids, home life, being a working mom."

But business and show biz can't compete with the thrills of athletic superstardom.

"I'm sure she's a fabulous mom, and a fabulous businesswoman. That's still not going to fill her cup up," Denise White, CEO of EAG Sports Management, told The Post.

"Maybe there's a little ego — how could there not be?" White added. "It's 2% ego and 98% missing the sport."

A 'bold and brave move'

For mega stars, it's hard to forge a life without athletic pursuits.

"These athletes have had schedules and have trained for 25 years, for 30 years, now you take away their schedule, you take away their sport, their competitiveness, the excitement to compete — that's a high they have," White said.

But there is the potential she could tarnish her legacy with an awkward return — à la Tom Brady.

In 2022, after 22 seasons and six Super Bowl rings with the New England Patriots, he announced he was retiring.

Then, after 40 days, he said his "appetite to compete" wasn't gone and announced he was joining the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. While he broke individual passing records during the 2022-2023 season, it was a rocky year with the Bucs finishing with an 8-9 record — a strange footnote to a storied career.

Jordan took an even more wandering path. When he announced his retirement from the Chicago Bulls in 1993, he was going out on top, after having won three consecutive NBA championships. He went on to play — surprise! — minor league baseball with the Chicago White Sox.

Then, in 1995, he returned to the Bulls, leading them to win another three consecutive championships between 1996 and 1998. He retired again in early 1999, then returned to the NBA in 2003 to play for the Washington Wizards for two season that were far less successful than his multiple three-peats with the Bulls.

Such career decisions illustrate just how hard it is for superstar athletes to exit the stage, Futterman noted.

"Movie stars and pop stars can continue to perform and continue to receive the public love and adulation and the adrenaline rush of thousands of people cheering for them, and really caring about their endeavors," he said. "Athletes don't have that choice."

They can try to keep playing, he noted, but doing so is far more difficult than, say, an aging rock star who keeps touring well into their 70s. And "eventually, their bodies don't allow it."

Dee Ocleppo Hilfiger, a long time friend of Williams, who starred on "The CEO Club" with her, said she was surprised by the news of her return.

"It's a very bold and brave move," she told The Post. "I hope she goes out and kills it."

Futterman, for one, wasn't surprised. He and others watching closely saw the comeback coming after Williams re-entered the required anti-doping test pool in December.

"There's no reason why you would go through the indignities of drug testing, file your whereabouts with the authorities every day, if you aren't going to play," Futterman said. "She was very clear when she left the court last time. Her main motivation was, she wanted to have another baby. There was a window where she was going to do that. That was a choice she had to make, and she's done that and wants to do what she loves and misses again."

The anonymous insider concurs.

They said, "She's done it all. It shows that her first love is tennis. It always was and it always will be."

GOODBYE, HELLO: Williams waved goodbye as she retired at the US Open in 2022 (left), but last week, it was revealed she'll compete in the singles at Wimbledon, which kicks off Monday. Insiders say Williams has looked fit and strong practicing in recent days (right).

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American Dreamers

Through July 4, The Post, in conjunction with the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream, is featuring US citizens explaining what the American dream means to them in 2026 — including George Yancopoulos, president of Regeneron.

YANCOPOULOS
Regeneron 'med' honcho.

I grew up in New York City but my family hearkens from northern Greece. As in many immigrant families, my parents both were working really hard just to survive.

The biggest privilege is having a supportive family. That's what, unfortunately, is not there for so many kids. I don't believe it has to do, you know, with money. In fact, the hunger of not having things is a great driver. But it's very hard to make up for the lack of a support system . . . This is what many immigrants have. They don't have the money, but they're raised within the extended family structure. When I was small, we had both my grandparents, my parents, and my sister and me all living in a one-bedroom apartment. But everybody was there to help each other out.

English was not my first language. I struggled with English.

But I was always very good at numbers, and I was good at science, and I was good at gadgets.

There was a remarkable Greek[-American] scientist who actually became world-renowned, whose name is Roy Vagelos.

It was his laboratory that invented the first statin. He rose from head of [research and development] at Merck to become COO of Merck, and he is acknowledged as one of the true fathers of the modern biopharmaceutical industry.

And my father said, "Well, if you're going to become a scientist, don't become like any run-of-the-mill scientist. Become like Roy Vagelos. Look at this guy — he's a first-generation immigrant like you. If he can do these things, you can too."

Roy was my role model and my hero. Unbelievably, when [my co-founder Leonard S. Schleifer and I] started our company . . . Regeneron, we eventually convinced the great Roy Vagelos to become chairman of our company.

I ended up . . . for almost 30 years working together with my role model and mentor that my dad told me to be like. We worked together to build Regeneron and develop a great number of important new medicines.

The American Dream Video Project showcases real stories that illuminate pathways to opportunity. Featured at the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream (MCAAD), this series is part of the Center's celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

For more information, visit mcaad.org.

Trampoline injury suit

A Westchester mother is suing Sky Zone after an adult entered a private birthday party area at the trampoline park and crushed her 4-year-old son — leaving him in a wheelchair for months with a broken femur.

Deanna Russell was accompanying her son at a Sky Zone in Mt. Kisco when the unidentified adult infiltrated the section reserved for the private event on March 9, 2024, she claimed in a June 16 lawsuit filed in Westchester Supreme Court.

The child was bouncing on the trampoline when the adult allegedly collided with him and broke his leg, Russell's lawyer Joanna Karlitz told The Post.

Russell blames Sky Zone for failing to keep the party area safe and private.

The child's parents filled out an incident report, per Karlitz, but Sky Zone allegedly hasn't done anything to address the situation.

Sky Zone welcomes all ages to its parks, and children under 12 must be supervised at all times, according to its guidelines.

Russell is demanding unspecified damages for her son's injuries.

Russell filed her case a week after a Florida mother sued the Sky Zone in Boynton Beach after her child broke his leg on a trampoline when another child jumped in the same area, the Boca Post reported.

Tameisa Sutton filed the complaint June 9, alleging the park failed to intervene when the other child violated its "one-child per trampoline rule."

Sutton is seeking out more than $50,000 in damages.

Sonya Gugliara

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Larry is lacking 'Curb' appeal

'250' show a rehashing of HBO hit

RED, WHITE & SNOOZE: HBO's tribute to America's 250th anniversary, "Life, Larry, and the Pursuit of Unhappiness" starring Larry David (above) reuses "Curb Your Enthusiasm" bits.

JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

IT'S *prettyyyy, prettyyyy, prettyyyy* bad.

Watching Larry David's unfortunate new HBO tribute to America's 250th anniversary, "Life, Larry, and the Pursuit of Unhappiness," made me want to secede.

Because, like Pavlov's dogs, viewers have been conditioned for decades to roar whenever they so much as see David, the ingenious co-creator of "Seinfeld" and curmudgeonly star of "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

This time, though, the model for George Costanza is met with total silence. Abruptly, the laugh affair ends with David's shaky seven-episode series, produced by comedy icons Barack and Michelle Obama.

No payoff

During the first chapter of "Unhappiness," which pursues unhappiness all right, I didn't so much as half smile. Frowned, glowered, scowled, sure. My patriotic anthem: And the critic's red glare! The jokes bursting on air!

The show's shtick is that it plops David and his usually hilarious modern gripes and grievances into major moments in American history: the writing of the Declaration of Independence, the trenches of World War I.

In one scene, he plays telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell as he first demonstrates his device. But the chatty guy on the other end, played by Richard Kind, is so annoying that Bell hangs up.

Another imagines Rosa Parks (Jurnee Smollett) on an earlier bus ride than the pivotal one that sparked a movement. She sits next to David's character Murray, who jabbers on so much that she voluntarily moves to the back to shake him.

The skits are more amusing when described than viewed because a synopsis takes 10 seconds, not five minutes.

Onscreen, the segments arrive at their obvious destination fast and then linger there far too long — a personal quality that "Curb" Larry would surely not approve of.

It also does the vignettes no favors that they are all borderline identical and, unlike in a great "Curb" episode, don't add up to a big payoff.

I can understand why David signed onto this. The series was the brainchild of stand-up-comic legend President Obama. It's hard to say "no" to a previous commander in chief (who's embarked on a weird Hollywood career), even when you play a character beloved for saying "no" to pretty much everybody else.

Also, one of David's biggest inspirations early in his career was Mel Brooks. Maybe he thought that "Unhappiness" would be his very own "History of the World: Part I."

Well, he wound up with something closer to Brooks' 2023 Hulu show, "History of the World: Part II" — hated by the few people who actually watched it.

How depressing. To my mind, David is just about the funniest man on the planet. This feels like a kidnapping.

Re-using bits

And if he was so intent on making more semi-improvisational TV that takes advantage of his grouchy persona — using the same bits from "Curb," by the way — he should've just made another season of "Curb." That series' worst episode is 10 times better than this.

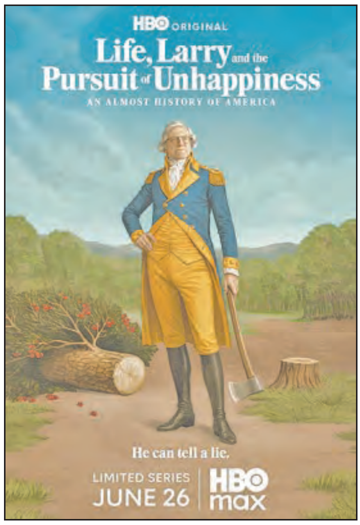
David had a unique path to celebrity. He made his fortune with "Seinfeld" behind the scenes and then became famous playing a fictionalized version of himself for an impressive 24 years. In the minds of audiences, he and his TV double have merged.

So, wherever he goes, he always portrays amped-up "Larry David" — his Bernie Sanders on "Saturday Night Live" was that with hiked-up shoulders — because that's what he knows and what people want.

Yet, as his disappointing latest HBO effort proves, Larry's bitter, picky antics don't fit in everywhere. Really, I'm convinced 2024's terrific finale of "Curb" should have marked the end of them.

Alas.

For David's sake, let's hope that "Life, Larry, and the Pursuit of Unhappiness" winds up a footnote in his own history.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Addled Joe loses his way

Former President Joe Biden was back onstage at a Democratic Party gala to excoriate President Trump Saturday — but needed a little help figuring out just how to exit.

Biden, who got pushed out of his re-election bid by fellow Democrats in 2024 following his debate disaster against Trump, defended his record and blasted his successor during his speech to the Maryland Democratic Party's Fight Back & Win summit near Baltimore.

He ripped Trump for the "deliberate distraction — destruction of NATO" and hammered Trump's White House ballroom as a "vanity project."

At his speech's conclusion Biden delivered a familiar refrain about the nation's ability to overcome challenges — then sought an assist to find out which way to leave the stage.

He turned to the side seeking guidance, then pointed in two directions to ascertain the best route. Once he had it sorted out, he walked away from the stage with his back to the audience.

Biden, 83, relied on a teleprompter during his remarks, squinting at times as he read his verbal blasts at his rival. *Geoff Earle*

Fatal B'klyn knife melee

Two men were stabbed — one fatally — during a fight involving Mexican gangs in a Brooklyn park Saturday, police and sources said.

A 30-year-old was stabbed in the gut and a 21-year-old in the chest at Dyker Beach Park in Dyker Heights just before 2 p.m., police said.

Both men were rushed to Maimonides Hospital, where the younger man was pronounced dead and the older man was in critical condition, cops said.

One man was taken into custody after the knife fight, which police sources said was between warring Mexican gangs. *Larry Celona and Tina Moore*

‘Knicks’ of the LI foster litter

JALEN
11
KAT
OG
Josh
Bridges

‘FUR’ST FIVE: Five adorable rescue puppies from South Carolina will be fostered on Long Island this weekend and were named Jalen, KAT, OG, Josh and Bridges in honor of the world champion Knicks’ starting five.

These are some MVP puppies.

Five rescue pups coming to Long Island this weekend to be placed with foster families were named after the NBA World Champion Knicks starters.

Jalen, KAT, OG, Josh and Bridges were given their Knicks names by the animal rescue Ollie’s Angels in Greenlawn, which got news of their births the day of Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

“Ironically, we were asked to help these puppies the same day the Knicks won the championship. When we realized there were five puppies, naming them in honor of the Knicks seemed like a fun idea,” Melissa Bielawski, director at Ollie’s Angels, told The Post.

“All of the women running the rescue are lifelong Knicks fans, so we’re really excited for this litter.”

Naming the pooches — which she guesses are “some type of Lab mix” — after the onetime underdogs seemed very fitting, Bielawski added.

The fur babies were rescued from a rural farming area in Dorchester County, SC, known for its problem of unwanted dogs.

Ollie’s Angels posted their starting five on its Instagram page this week, with the caption: “Whether they’re zooming around the court (OK, your living room), perfecting their puppy moves, or winning over every fan they meet, they’re proving that five is definitely the magic number.”

“The response from the initial social post has been incredible, which is a huge win for us,” Bielawski said.

Angela Barbuti

Teen girl raped in Bx. park

A pedophile dragged a 13-year-old girl into a Bronx park, where he raped her, police said Saturday.

The girl was approached by the stranger on the BX9 bus, where he said something inappropriate to her before she got off at Broadway and West 261st Street in North Riverdale around 10 p.m. Thursday, police sources said.

He followed her off the bus, grabbed her by the sweater and dragged her into a wooded area inside Van Cortlandt Park, according to cops.

The creep then raped the victim and ran off, police said.

EMS took her to a local hospital in stable condition.

Cops are asking for help to find the pervert and released surveillance photos of him on the bus wearing a white hoodie. *Tina Moore*

‘WIZ’OUT ETHICS

B’way big ‘didn’t honor real estate deal’

NAN HOUSE OF JUSTICE

By KATHIANNE BONIELLO

A Tony Award-winning choreographer allegedly danced around his exclusive deal with high-powered real estate firm Douglas Elliman to unload an historic firehouse in Harlem — selling it directly to Al Sharpton instead for $6 million.

Douglas Elliman wants Broadway star George Faison to pay it $360,000 — equal to the 6% commission the company said it should have earned on the sale.

Faison, 80, the first African-American to win a Tony for choreography for his work in 1974’s “The Wiz,” inked an agreement in July 2025 with Douglas Elliman to sell 4 and 6 Hancock Place in South Harlem, the real estate giant said in a lawsuit.

The buildings represent a combined 30,000 square feet of space just south of 125th Street and Saint Nicholas Avenue. Faison bought 6 Hancock Pl. (left), a shuttered Beaux Arts firehouse, in 2000 for $600,000 and converted it to a theater with room for offices, a residence and a dance studio.

‘They should’ve called’

Faison bought adjacent 4 Hancock Pl. in 2013 for $1 million.

But after signing the agreement with Douglas Elliman, Faison allegedly “surreptitiously” sold the buildings to Sharpton’s National Action Network, according to the Manhattan Supreme Court suit.

The company claimed the choreographer “deliberately refused to comply with his obligation under the listing agreement and sought to avoid paying the commission due to Douglas Elliman.”

Sharpton (inset) plans to move NAN to the property and rename it the House of Justice Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Workshop.

“NAN purchased the firehouse property for $6 million and has already begun moving into the building,” spokeswoman Rachel Noerdlinger told The Post.

“We have no knowledge of the lawsuit or the allegations contained within it. Any legal dispute between Mr. Faison and Douglas Elliman is a matter between those parties, and NAN has no involvement in it.”

Faison claimed Douglas Elliman “had not called me since January,” when reached by The Post for comment. “If we had any discrepancy they should have called me,” he added, before hanging up.

The choreographer “had a contractual obligation to refer all inquiries to Douglas Elliman,” said attorney Don Abraham, who is repping the real estate giant.

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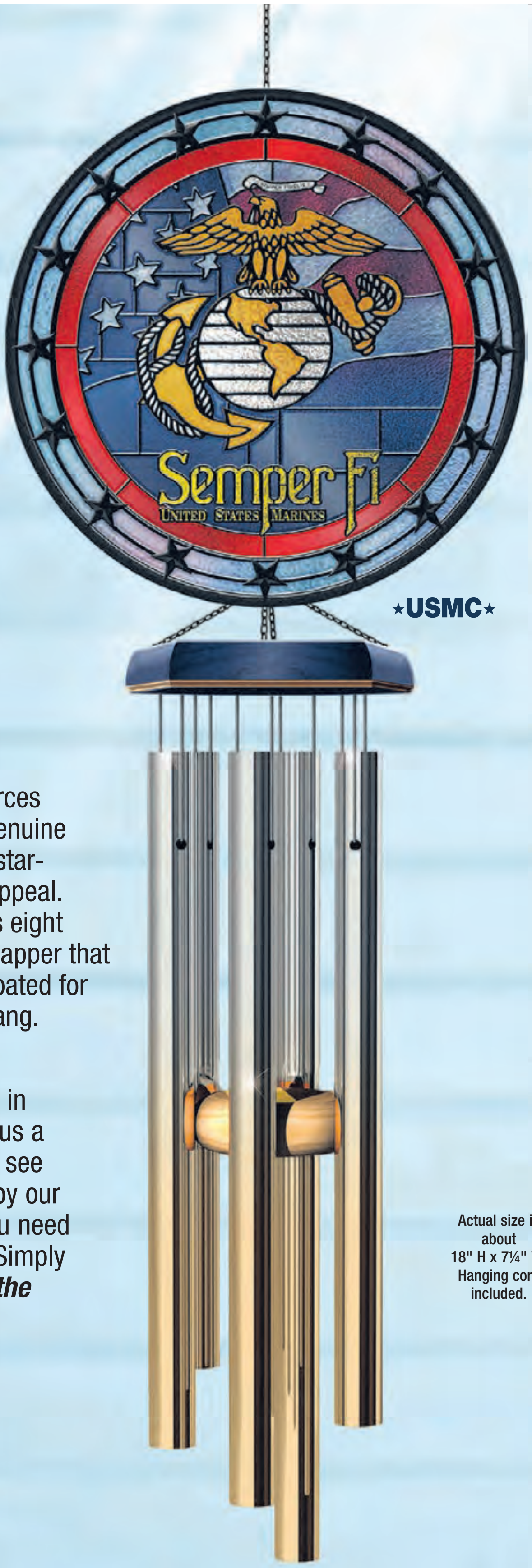

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Kyiv's 'influence'

Hits harder to force peace

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

Ukraine pummeled a strategic oil hub that supplies Moscow for the second time this month Saturday, part of a new 40-day "influence operation" to force Russian strongman Vladimir Putin to end the war.

Drones detonated at the Vtorovo oil pumping station, 140 miles east of the Russian capital, Ukraine's military intelligence reported on Telegram.

"Each affected facility means fewer resources for waging war and a higher price the Kremlin is forced to pay for continuing the aggression," Ukraine's Security Service wrote.

Deep inside Russia

The plant, run by Russia's state-owned Transneft, pumps diesel fuel to major oil depots around Moscow, Russian airports and export hubs on the Baltic Sea.

It was previously hit by Ukrainian forces June 10.

Kyiv also hammered one of the Kremlin's key artillery-production facilities in Volgograd overnight, 550 miles from the Ukrainian border.

Fire erupted at the Titan-Barrikady plant, after Ukraine unleashed its long-range "Flamingo" missiles.

"Every Russian defense facility that serves the war against Ukraine is a just target," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on X Saturday.

"The reach of Ukraine's long-range weapons continues to expand. And it is precisely our pressure, day after day, that lays the groundwork for a dignified peace in the end."

The ramped-up strikes are part of a 40-day campaign launched by Zelensky last week, tapping Ukraine's military intelligence to coordinate strikes deep inside the heart of Russia "compelling it to end the war."

It comes as President Trump is reportedly reconsidering his understanding with Russian President Vladimir Putin following their Alaska summit last August that any peace deal would require Ukraine to cede its industrial Donbas region.

Seven killed

Meanwhile, Russia — which declared a state of emergency in occupied Crimea on Friday following one of Ukraine's heaviest drone attacks of the war caused widespread blackouts and fuel shortages — killed at least seven people and injured 89 others in Ukraine overnight into Saturday, regional authorities reported.

In Sumy, one person was killed and 14 others were wounded after at least three rocket drones hit apartments and houses.

Russian drones also struck a minibus in the Dnipro region, killing two people and injuring at least 12 others, including two 12-year-old girls who were hospitalized with shrapnel wounds, Ukraine's National Police reported on Telegram.

DANGEROUS WORK: Firefighters douse the flames at the site of a Russian missile and drone strike in Ukraine's Poltava region.

Reuters

Effort to grow Arctic sea ice working

Scientists have been working to stave off summer in one of the Earth's coldest places in a bid to protect rapidly melting Arctic sea ice, and it appears to be working, according to a report.

Real Ice, an effort funded by the UK government, uses hydrogen-powered underwater drones to pump seawater to the surface of the Arctic in winter, where temperatures can average minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

During the process, the ocean water freezes, thickening the ice and providing an extra layer of protection during the relatively warmer summer months.

Arctic ice sheets help reflect the sun's heat, keeping the planet cool, but warmer temperatures and decreasing ice amounts have accelerated the melting, creating a vicious cycle, scientists said.

Not only is Arctic ice shrinking, it's getting thinner "and more fragile," according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Real Ice scientists had worked in temperatures of minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit months ago in the northern Canadian town of Cambridge Bay to pump 50,000 tons of ocean water to the surface of the Arctic ice, an effort which added roughly 20 inches to the frozen layer, they told The Guardian.

Kathianne Boniello

News OF THE World®

ITALY

A Catholic parish's statue of a saint on display in the church for two decades recently appeared to be crying.

A parishioner of Santa Maria delle Grazie in the town of Casalba noticed the statue of St. Padre Pio with a red-colored tear, resembling blood, which looked like it was falling from its eye.

After the parish priest tried to clean the statue of the Italian friar, who was canonized in 2002 — to no avail — it was removed from the church for further examination.

ECUADOR

To celebrate its World Cup win over Germany, Ecuador President Daniel Noboa declared June 26 a public holiday.

Noboa, who was in the stands at MetLife Stadium for Friday's game, gleefully wrote on X:

"Thank you to the players and the coach who, despite the criticism, the insults, and the tough times they went through, managed to bounce back and bring this immense joy to the entire country. Tomorrow is a holiday! Long live Ecuador."

JAPAN

Japan's Cultural Affairs Agency held a meeting this week to discuss the global expansion of the country's print culture.

The agency is working on a plan to spread Japanese literature, including the implementation of an inquiry desk to field questions from overseas publishers and translators.

ENGLAND

A new Frida Kahlo exhibition set a record for the Tate Modern museum in London.

With over 41,000 tickets sold before its opening, "Frida: The Making of an Icon," is the most pre-sold exhibition in the museum's over-25-year history.

The exhibit, which opened on June 25, includes over 30 of the famed late artist's works.

CANADA

A Canadian boat owner is facing a lawsuit after his vessel leaked oil in a Nova Scotia harbor that cost a staggering $2.88 million to clean up.

The Canadian Coast Guard worked to move the Craig Trans from Marie Joseph, which included dealing with the contaminated water around it and shelling out cash for the ship to be dismantled.

Wires

Pols dog private sector on UFOs

Lawmakers and federal government honchos are dragging private corporations and defense contractors into the spotlight of the UFO disclosure movement, with one scientist saying "just a gram" of material could prove we're not alone.

Rep. Eric Burlison (R-Mo.) has demanded specific documents from both MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and the MITRE Corporation as part of his push to expose the federal coverup of programs that studied Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon and have possibly worked on alien vehicle reconstruction.

"A lot of this information is in the hands of or archives of these federally funded research and development centers and some of the prime sub [contractors] that have been working on this topic," Burlison said at a Disclosure Foundation forum on Thursday.

The "Show Me" State congressman demanded in writing last month that MIT's Lincoln Labs and the associated MITRE Corp. preserve and turn over a video labeled "UFO Talk." He claims the video shows a classified briefing an Air Force general gave to MIT scientists in 1952 about a mass UFO sighting in Washington, DC, that same year.

Aerospace and defense contractor Northrop Grumman, worth $70 billion, has also been put on notice by Burlison.

Shane Galvin

Epstein's exploiting of women...

STARTED WITH HIS MOM

SHE WASN'T IMMUNE: Jeffery Epstein (with parents Paula and Seymour) bounced a check on his mom's account in the 1970s in an early example of his manipulative ways.

By JEANNE ERICKSON

Long before Jeffrey Epstein became the world's most notorious sex offender, he committed an act that foreshadowed a lifetime of manipulating women — and his first victim was his own mother.

According to a researcher examining Epstein's early years, the disgraced financier's pattern of exploiting women began decades before his sex-trafficking empire came crashing down.

"His mother Paula adored him," CUNY sociology professor Thomas Volscho, who is researching a book on wealthy sex traffickers, told The Post. "Both his parents were remembered as hardworking, well-liked people from a simple Brooklyn family."

Yet, one of the earliest documented controversies involving Epstein centered on his leaving his family in the lurch while a student at NYU.

According to a May 1976 report by Fidelifacts, New York University took Epstein to civil court in December 1975 after receiving an invalid tuition payment.

Debt collector sent

"He wrote a check on his mother's checking account for his tuition and the check bounced," Volscho told NYU student newspaper Washington Square News.

"When NYU sent a debt collector to his address, his brother answered the door and said he'd gone off to Europe and then coughed up like three or four hundred dollars of the thousand-odd dollars owed."

The NYU lawsuit was later settled, but the incident is an early glimpse into a pattern that would define Epstein's life.

Survivors revealed that Epstein — who left NYU without a degree and lied to prospective employer Bear Stearns about his education — repeatedly used promises of admission and tuition payments at the school and other elite institutions to lure and control his victims, according to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

He would dangle the prospect of an education to entice young women into his orbit, and in some cases he or his associates would arrange scholarships or pay tuition, then threaten to pull funding if they failed to comply with his demands.

As despicable as Epstein's manipulation tactics were, he was the grand master at them. Even after his mother's death, he exploited her for his own benefit.

Lied about call

On Aug. 9, 2019, after meeting his lawyers at the Metropolitan Correctional Center New York, prison staffers allowed Epstein to make, in violation of policy, an unrecorded, unmonitored telephone call before he was returned to his cell, according to a report from the DOJ, Office of the Inspector General.

Epstein said he was calling his mother, Paula Epstein, but she had been dead for 15 years. He was actually calling his girlfriend.

Guards found him dead in his cell the next morning.

Fett: Left 'deeply disturbed'

Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.) ravaged the radical socialist candidates who are taking over his party — and insisted to The Post this week he has no plans to defect, at least for now.

"I said months ago, I said the Democratic Party is becoming an orgy of socialism. These recent elections vindicate my description," he told The Post after Democratic Socialists of America triumphed in three New York House primary races Tuesday that rocked the party establishment.

Fetterman, elected in a marquee race in a battleground state in 2022, called 32-year old doctoral student Darializa Avila Chevalier — who knocked off incumbent Adriano Espaillat — "deeply disturbed."

"Chevalier described America as a f---ing disgrace. She posted 'f--- Kamala Harris' and posted that she forgot napkins and wiped her hands on the American flag," he said.

Fetterman flagged a May Washington Post column in which he called himself an independent voice. He has championed the Iran war.

Geoff Earle

JD: We win no matter what

Vice President JD Vance argued during an interview with Bill Maher Friday that "America wins" even if Iran refuses to sign a deal that would end the war.

"If we don't make the final deal, their nuclear program is still destroyed, they're still much weaker as a country," Vance said during his appearance on "Real Time with Bill Maher."

"So my attitude is America wins either way," he said.

Vance noted that President Trump tasked US negotiators with "something that frankly, nobody in 47 years of dealing with the Iranians has done, which is offer them an opportunity to fundamentally transform how they behave with the West."

"If they're willing to change, we're willing to change, too," the vice president said, adding, "If they're not willing to change, we still fundamentally have all the cards."

Vance's trip to the Bürgenstock Resort Lake Lucerne, near Stansstad, Switzerland, was a part of the first round of talks with Iran under the mutually agreed memorandum of understanding. *Victor Nava*

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OPINIONS & IDEAS

POSTSCRIPT

Henry Ford's race to change the world
P. 42-43

WHOLE NEW WORLD

America's economic engine is outperforming this century's expectations

The left's outrage over Elon Musk's (inset) new trillionaire status ignores the fact that it's a sign of how America is economically besting Europe and China.

Getty Images

NOAH ROTHMAN

AMERICA became home to the world's first trillionaire last month when Elon Musk's SpaceX went public.

Musk earned his success, although he shares some measure of it with his adopted home. There's a reason why he was able to establish the world's largest satellite internet provider in America — a company that developed and perfected reusable booster-rocket technology and dominates the commercial spaceflight landscape — and not in Russia, China or, most inconceivably, Europe.

If Musk owes America a debt, it is only one of gratitude. But Democrats seem to believe that he owes this country much more than that. And if he's not inclined to pay the tab Democrats believe he's run up, they're going to take it.

Musk's money is really "our money," Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts declared, citing a report on how much of SpaceX's massive valuation is only due to its government contracts. As if federal contracts were little more than kingly beneficences that can be revoked at will.

Other Democrats didn't even bother to look for a pretext to justify their covetousness.

"Trillionaires shouldn't exist in a moral society," wrote Rep. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts. Confiscating Musk's wealth, irrespective of the federal government's needs, is an ethical imperative.

Indeed, to hear the left tell it, using tax policy to punish Musk is the least America can do given its contributions to the criminally negligent policies that made him the world's wealthiest man in the first place.

"The level of wealth that Mr. Musk has reached requires human exploitation, wage theft, wage suppression, anti-competitive markets, monopolistic control, price collusion, inadequate tax systems and corruption," the author and progressive strategist Erica Payne insisted.

This is a child's view of economics. These outlooks take no account of the book-value wealth Musk created not just for himself but also for his employees, several thousand of whom became overnight millionaires.

Nor does it factor in the economic activity adjacent to SpaceX that contributes to the prosperity of many thousands more.

Musk's success sparked renewed calls from Democrats for a punitive "wealth tax" akin to those in Europe. It's a strange time for Democrats to advocate for the importation of European-style tax policies even as Europeans themselves are abandoning them.

But Democrats don't seem to care.

If they got their way, their policies would push the kind of wealth they long to appropriate for themselves out of anyone's reach. And Europe is Exhibit A in the case against the shameful avarice that Democrats pretend is only a policy preference.

Right now, Europe is experiencing a modest crisis of self-confidence as its citizens stream into the United States for the World Cup. European visitors have given Americans a delightful view of our own country through fresh eyes, marveling over the banalities of daily life that we take for granted.

Former New York Times economics columnist Paul Krugman has argued that those Europeans are cheap dates. Through his own bespoke reading of individual purchasing-power-parity statistics (his way around a strict analysis of Gross Domestic Product per capita), Krugman concludes that Europe and the United States are, by and large, economic equals.

The British magazine The Economist wasn't buying it. "Mr. Krugman suggests a 'walking around test,' " its reporters wrote, because "if Europe is getting poor, why does it feel so pleasant?"

Well, Krugman's critics propose their own anecdotal metric — the "driving around" America test. "American suburbia might not have a medieval town's charm, but affluence oozes from the McMansion garages," The Economist conceded.

Save university professors and EU bureaucrats, Europeans know there is no sugar-coating the extent to which America has eclipsed the continent. In 2024, European Central Bank president Mario Draghi warned that Europe faces the "slow agony" of economic backwardness, reduced investment and innovation, and the fragmentation of its common market. Europe, he noted, has become dangerously dependent on non-Europeans for growth and dynamism.

"Without action, we will have to either compromise our welfare, our environment, or our freedom," he warned.

Europe's commitment to "fairness" long ago stripped it of economic vitality. At the end of 2024, the economist Andrew McAfee set out to compare big European businesses with those of America. He found that Europe could claim just 14 firms founded in the last 50 years that are worth $10 billion or more. All told, Europe's total market cap was about $430 billion. The US, by contrast, has dozens of firms with a collective value of $30 trillion. That's "almost 70 times as much as its EU equivalent," McAfee wrote.

That shouldn't surprise anyone. After all, between 2008 and 2023, Europe's GDP grew by just 13.5% while America's nearly doubled.

Europeans are rightfully gobsmacked by the casual displays of American affluence with which they're surrounded. Back home, their politicians and governing institutions express nothing but contempt for the conditions that foster growth and wealth generation. For the European political class, there's just something unseemly about creating so much value and enjoying success as a result.

Americans are not similarly tormented by their own prosperity.

America's economic engine is a juggernaut precisely because it does not capriciously confiscate property and wealth from its most productive citizens, throwing their hard-earned income into the bottomless abyss of underfunded social welfare programs.

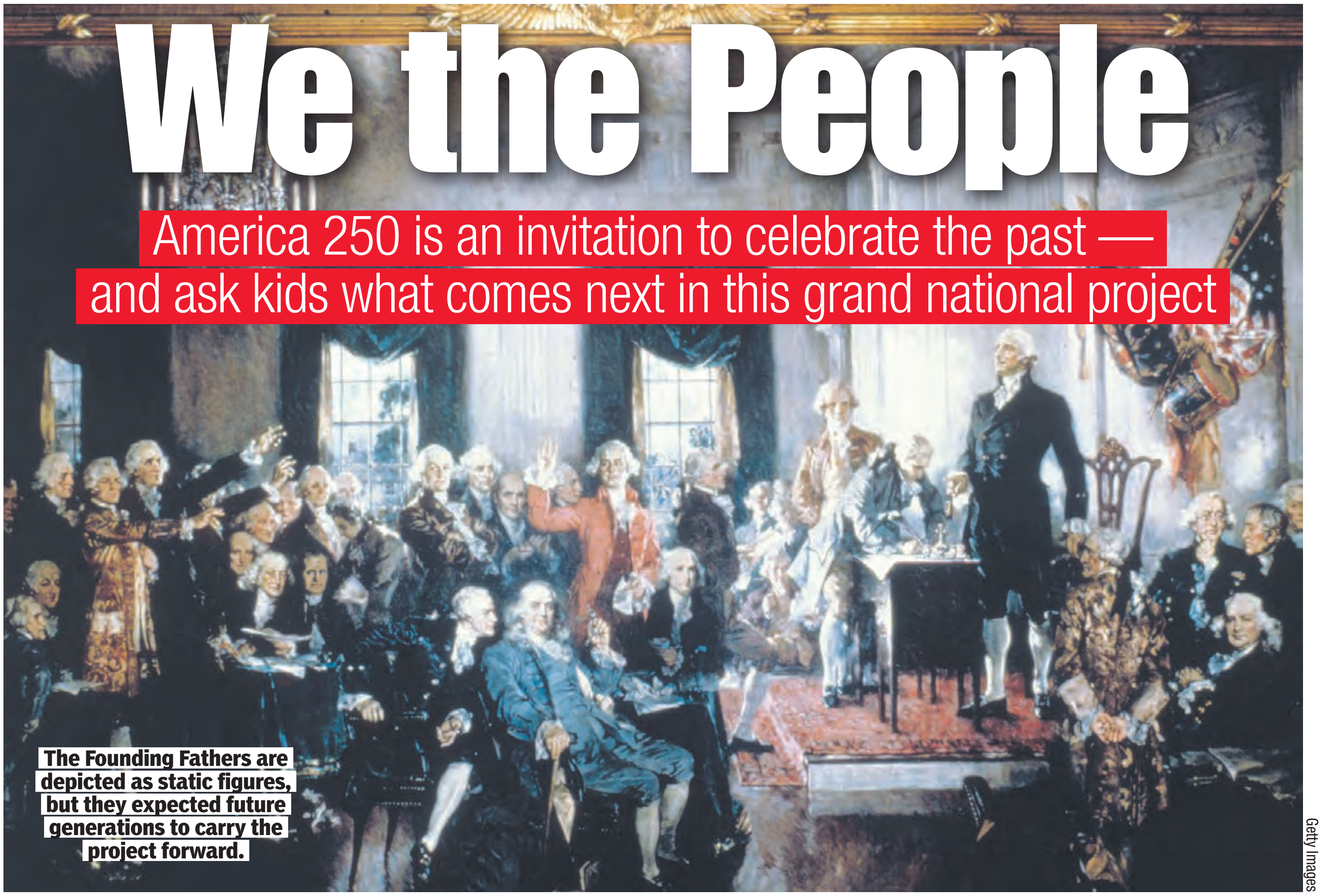
Democrats have long maintained that America should be more like Europe. Musk and his trillions are a testament to their failure.

We should be grateful that the left's insatiable appetite for other people's money is matched only by their ineptitude in stealing it.

Noah Rothman is the author of "Blood & Progress: A Century of Left-Wing Violence in America."

We the People

America 250 is an invitation to celebrate the past — and ask kids what comes next in this grand national project



The Founding Fathers are depicted as static figures, but they expected future generations to carry the project forward.

Getty Images

LINDSEY CORMACK

AS America approaches its 250th birthday, we're about to hear a lot about the founders. Schools and sites of civic care students will revisit the names and lives of George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and more. There will be lessons about the extraordinary risks of the founders as they mutually pledged to each other "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor" at the end of the Declaration.

We'll celebrate the Revolutionary War, reference the founding documents, claim the ideals as noble, gather family and friends for food and fireworks. And we should.

But if looking to honor the past is all we do on July 4, 2026, we will miss out on a big opportunity to think about America in a way that stands to make it a more perfect union.

The founders didn't call themselves "founders"; it wasn't until President Warren G. Harding spoke the phrase "Founding Fathers" in 1916 that we even had that term. Prior to that, each successive set of political leaders paid tribute to their "forefathers" for moving America forward into something new and better.

But "founder" works for the modern ear as we cast the nation as some sort of grand start up. Yet at 250 years in, it's time for an updated notion of who ought to take on the work of making America what it is.

We, the people, alive at this very moment, must take up the call of being the founders of today. I spend much of my time talking to middle schoolers, high school students and college undergraduates about politics and government. And I often start with a simple exercise: I ask them what they've heard about the founders.

They can usually tell me a few things. They'll give a few names. They'll tell me there were all men, all landowners, and that a good number of them participated in slavery. If I'm lucky, they'll have a few quotes or lines from the Declaration of Independence. We then go through about a half hour of thinking about what political participation looks like for young people today. Then I end by asking them a question that they typically don't hear in civics lessons: What kind of founder are you?

At first, they hesitate. That question doesn't fit with how they've been taught to think about American history. To them, "founders" are people in textbooks who are distant, exceptional and long gone.

But I think this approach misses out on an opportunity for us to reinvigorate what it is to learn about and care about this country.

If we treat founding as something that only happened in 1776, we turn what could be an ongoing effort of love of country into historical spectatorship. Couple that with endless talk about how broken everything of today feels, like our politics, institution, and the tone of our national conversation, it can be easy to feel like American government is something happening to us, not something that belongs to us. The founders of 1776 understood something we sometimes forget: The system they were building would only be as strong as the people inside it, because self-government only works if, we the people, understand it and take responsibility for pushing it along.

That's why the 250th anniversary shouldn't just be a celebration of what happened back then. It should be an invitation to see ourselves as part of the ongoing work of founding because that work isn't finished, it never will be.

And if we are still interested in pursuing life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness (as I hope most of us are) when marking 250 years of American independence, it's worth considering not just what the founders did, but what we're going to do next. And what kind of founders we are willing to be.

Lindsey Cormack is an associate professor of political science at Stevens Institute of Technology, a JMC Scholar, author of "How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It)," and host of Government that Doesn't Suck

Chatter

'[Jeffrey Epstein] never blackmailed me, but looking at these emails . . . he contemplated blackmailing me.'

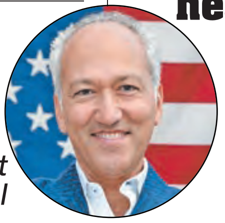
— Bill Gates testifies before Congress on how Epstein tried to leverage their relationship

REPRESENTATIVE
Hakeem Jeffries
New York
2267

'Three losses in one night is tough. We wanted [Hakeem] Jeffries to know our thoughts are with him, his candidates, and whatever remains of his influence.'

— National Republican Congressional Committee after delivering "condolence flowers" to the House minority leader

'This agreement hands Iran a victory it could never win on the battlefield.'



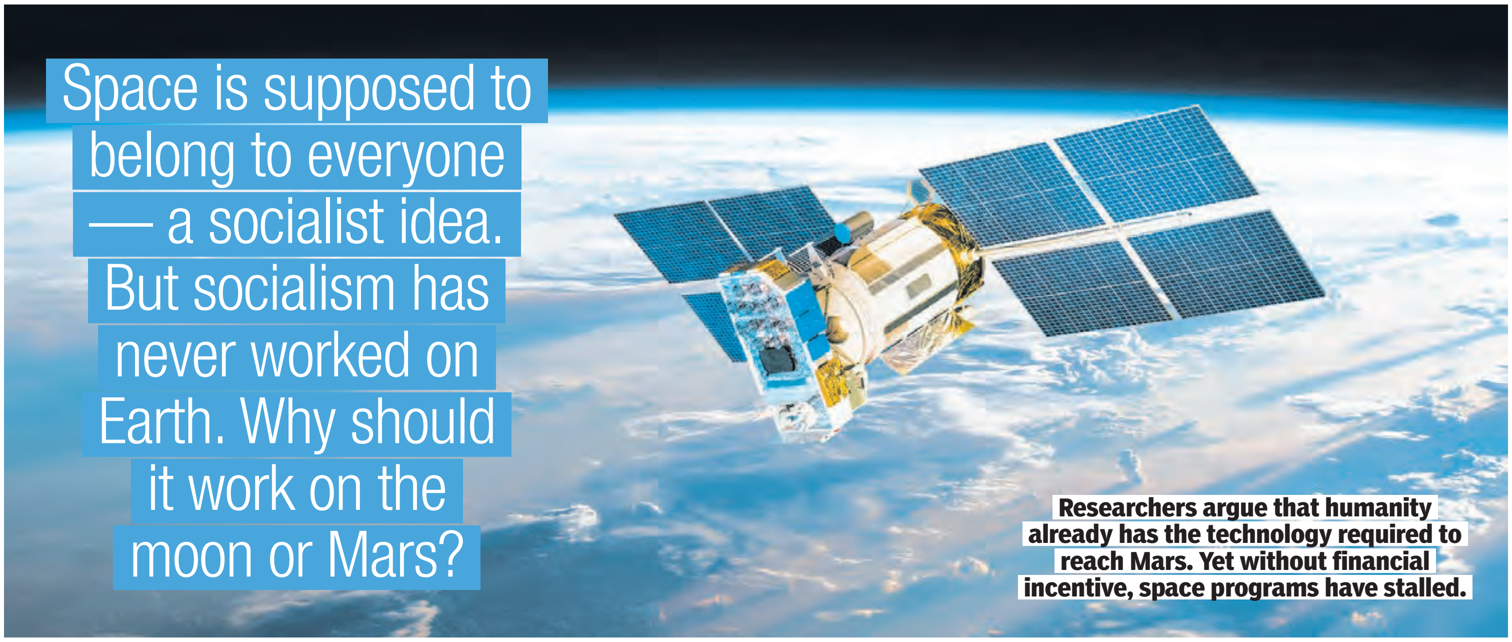
— Pedram Bral, the Iranian-born Republican mayor of Great Neck, echoing other exiles' concerns about the Trump-Iran deal

'[It's] the greatest combined federal and state effort combating healthcare fraud in history.'

— Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche announces more than 450 fraud busts

CAPITALISM IN SPACE

RAINER ZITELMANN



Space is supposed to belong to everyone — a socialist idea. But socialism has never worked on Earth. Why should it work on the moon or Mars?

Researchers argue that humanity already has the technology required to reach Mars. Yet without financial incentive, space programs have stalled.

Adobe Stock

SCIENCE fiction author Arthur C. Clarke wrote in 1977: "The impact of telecommunications satellites on the entire human race will be at least the same impact as the advent of the telephone in so-called developed societies."

Today, that prediction has long been reality. Few people realize how deeply daily life already depends on space infrastructure. If all satellites suddenly failed, navigation systems would collapse. Smartphones and vehicles could no longer determine location accurately. Weather forecasts would become unavailable. Airports would descend into chaos without GPS-based time and positioning data. Traffic signals would desynchronize, leading to chaos on the roads. Supply chains that depend on satellite-supported logistics would disintegrate.

Even financial transactions would grind to a halt, as precise time signals via satellites are vital for synchronizing debits and credits. For instance, trading on the New York Stock Exchange relies on time stamps accurate to billionths of a second that are synchronized via satellite technology; without these signals, automated trading systems would fail.

And this is only the beginning. Satellite mega-constellations such as Starlink, OneWeb, Kuiper and Sat Net are rapidly expanding internet access across the globe. Nearly one-third of humanity still lacks reliable internet connectivity. Space-based communications systems may soon change that, with enormous economic consequences. Space capitalism is no longer a vision of the future. It already exists. Several companies, including SpaceX, Google, Nvidia and Planet Labs, are working on data centers in orbit.

To understand where this could lead, it helps to look back 15 years: In 2011, after the Space Shuttle program ended, the US was no longer able to launch its own astronauts to the International Space Station from American soil using American rockets. It was reliant on outdated Russian Soyuz rockets, and the Russians were demanding monopoly prices. It was an uncomfortable reality for the world's leading technological power. Government space programs had reached a dead end. It wasn't until 2020 that the Second Space Age — the era of private spaceflight — began, when a private Falcon rocket launched by SpaceX carried Americans to the ISS.

Today, space capitalism is a reality. Compared to the Space Shuttle, Elon Musk has cut costs by 95%. Last year, 165 of 324 rocket launches worldwide were conducted by SpaceX. If SpaceX were a country, it would be No. 1, far ahead of China (88 launches). And SpaceX is not alone. Another private company, Rocket Lab, founded by New Zealander Peter Beck, carried out 21 launches last year — three times as many as Europe's government space program.

Musk has big plans; he wants to settle 1 million people on Mars. Science fiction? Perhaps not. NASA researcher Harry W. Jones argues that there are no more fundamental problems on the way to Mars. Technologically, humanity could reach Mars today.

So why aren't we already there? And why haven't we been back to the moon since 1972? Why isn't there a thriving mining industry on asteroids, despite enormous mineral wealth — such as platinum — waiting to be extracted?

Because there's no economic incentive! Money makes the world go round — and space is no exception. The 1967 Outer Space Treaty prohibits national ownership of celestial bodies or land on celestial bodies. Space is supposed to belong to everyone — a socialist idea. But socialism has never worked on Earth. Why should it work on the moon or Mars?

What will the future look like? As a historian, I look to the past, to the history of America. Squatters conquered the West. They took land; legal frameworks such as the Homestead Act and other laws, came later. We need space squatters; we need private property rights in space.

Governments shouldn't be allowed to own property — I agree with that. But private companies should! If SpaceX reaches Mars, it should claim a piece of land.

Not the whole planet, of course. Maybe an area the size of Singapore. That would still leave plenty for others, since Mars is 200,000 times larger than Singapore.

The company that acquires this area will list it on the stock exchange as a publicly traded real estate investment trust, or REIT. Yes, let's take Mars public on the NYSE! Then it would belong to everyone who buys shares in a Mars REIT — maybe even you!

Rainer Zitelmann is the author of the newly published book "New Space Capitalism" (Skyhorse Books).

STATE OF PLAY

% of Americans who plan to watch World Cup soccer:

40%

Source: Gallup

'She wouldn't have drawn a flagrant foul in the Knicks-Spurs game.'

— Lawyers for US Rep. LaMonica McIver (D-NJ), claiming her charges for allegedly assaulting cops at an anti-ICE protest should be thrown out

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'RED' & WEEP

'It's a hostile takeover by the Democratic Socialists of America . . . they've taken over the party locally.'

— political analyst JC Polanco on the DSA's primary victories

TAX
the
RICH
for a

'She knows we're coming for her.'

DSA leader Gustavo Gordillo's warning on Gov. Hochul

LESS 'RELIABLE'

% by nationality who say the US is a reliable partner:

Canada:
2022: 83%
2026: 35%

Germany:
2022: 83%
2026: 39%

UK:
2022: 82%
2026: 49%

Source: Pew

America the beautiful

How our country's revolution got it so right when many others got it so wrong

THERE'S never been another country like America. That's not mere patriotic hyperbole for our 250th anniversary. It's historical fact. But many of us have never really understood it. Or maybe we forgot what we heard in school on the subject a long time ago. Or did we ever hear it? Today most schools wouldn't dare say anything along such lines, which is precisely why I wrote my book "REVOLUTION: The Birth of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World."

ERIC METAXAS

But it's something most Americans used to know — and it's extremely important. We need to start with the American Revolution itself, which is the only revolution in world history that actually delivered on the promises it made, to create a country where the people were in charge, a country that — in Lincoln's famous words — was "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Of course other revolutions claimed to be about the same thing, promising that when everything was all over "the people" would be in charge. But every one betrayed this, creating levels of misery and suffering that are almost unimaginable.

Take the French Revolution, which began just a few years after our own revolution, and was championed by some of the figures involved in our revolution — like Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. They all seemed to think it would be a happy reprisal of what happened here. It was anything but that, ending in a nightmare bloodbath of terror.

What went wrong? Just like us, the French decided they didn't like the idea of monarchy. So they beheaded their king and queen. But the radicals didn't stop there.

They also decided to kill every priest and nun. Let's just say it didn't go well for anyone. Where the American revolutionaries were mostly people of faith — and saw their faith as the very reason they were doing what they were doing — the French revolutionaries saw faith and the church as the problem. The Americans declared that their liberties came from God, and that it was the role of government to protect those liberties. The French didn't know where their liberties came from. So they traded King Louis XVI for a dictator named Napoleon — who crowned himself emperor.

Whatever happened to the noble French ideals of liberté, égalité and fraternité?

Then there are the even worse nightmares of the Bolshevik and Maoist revolutions in Russia and China. The Soviets murdered the tsar and his family, giving the Russian people the sadistic leadership of Lenin and Stalin and the hell of what Solzhenitsyn called "the Gulag Archipelago." The Chinese communists got rid of the emperor and — just like the Soviets — murdered millions of their own people.

EVERY one of these "revolutions" was a false revolution that actually replaced suffering with more suffering, and inequality with more inequality, creating dystopian worlds too awful to contemplate.

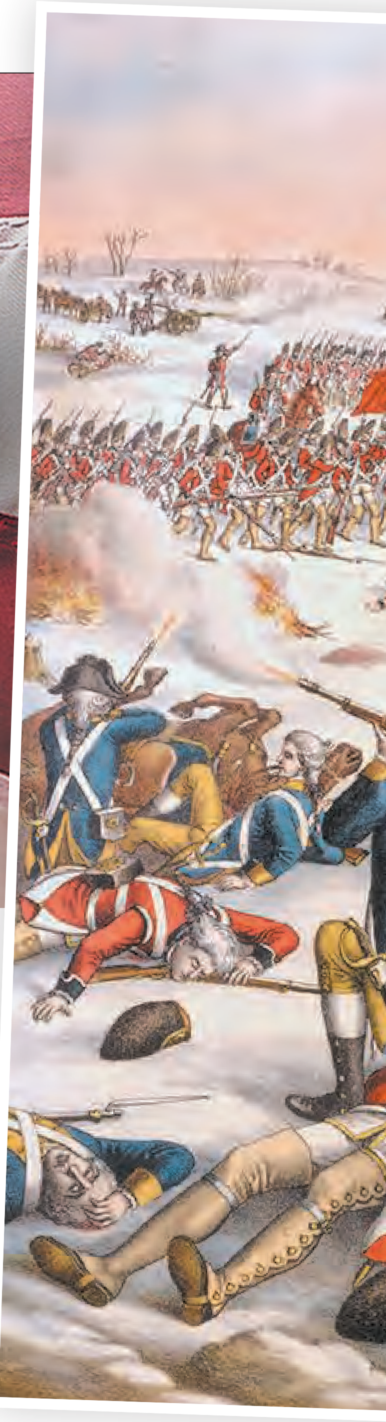
So how did these so-called revolutions get it so grotesquely wrong? And how did we in the American Revolution get it right, creating a nation where the people really did govern themselves, just as was hoped and promised, and are continuing to do so, 250 years later?

The answer couldn't be simpler. The leaders of our revolution understood that it wasn't enough to get rid of a king or a tsar or emperor and hope for the best. You couldn't just tear down what you didn't like. You had to replace it with something else. But what?

The answer is so simple many people refuse to believe it. You can say it in three letters: "God." I'll bet you didn't hear that in your public school social studies class. But it's undeniable. Of course the men of the American Revolution knew they couldn't force God on anyone, because they believed in liberty, especially religious liberty. So if faith was necessary, it would need to come from the people themselves, voluntarily. The whole thing was a gamble, or as many have said, "an experiment."

But the reason they thought it might work in 1776 was because it had been working for the previous 150 years. Most of the Americans in the revolution were descended from men and women who in the previous century had braved dangerous sea-crossings to live out their Christian faith as they saw fit. And during all this time they really had been self-governing. So faith in the God of the Bible was almost ubiquitous in Colonial America, and actually increased during the Great Awakening, under the preaching of the evangelist George Whitefield, who was the biggest celebrity of his time.

Three-quarters of everyone in the colonies heard him preach in person at least once. So the Americans were a decidedly faith-filled people.

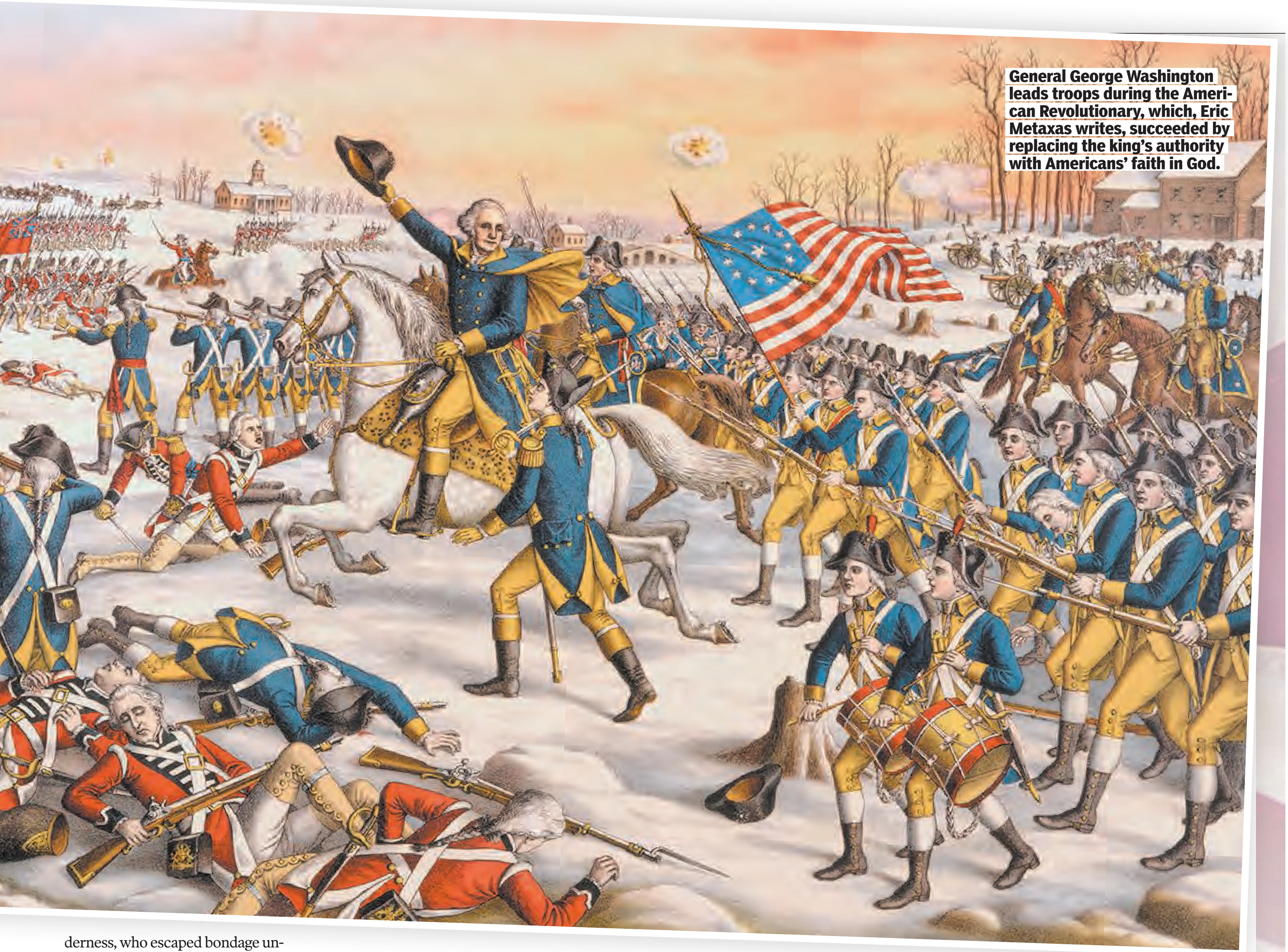


Adobe Stock, Getty Images (3)

WHEN the British in the 1760s decided to crack down on the colonies, and tax them and persecute them, they pushed back. Hard. They had the crazy idea that they were still free men and women who could govern themselves and tax themselves. After all, hadn't they been doing so for over a century? And they knew that their liberties were God-given, not given to them by parliament or the king.

So when in 1776 they finally decided to declare independence from the monarch in Great Britain, they were simultaneously reaffirming their dependence on God. And they weren't shy about saying so. On Aug. 1, the day before the members of Congress officially signed the Declaration of Independence, they gathered to hear Samuel Adams give a speech on the steps of Independence Hall. In it he declared, "We have this day restored the Sovereign, to whom all men ought to be obedient." Adams — whom they called the "Father of the Revolution" — was saying it explicitly.

Here was a member of Congress telling every other member of Congress that God was the ruler of the brand new nation, and that if we looked to him for guidance, we could govern ourselves. We would do something that hadn't been done in 3,000 years. Just like the ancient Israelites in the Sinai wil-



General George Washington leads troops during the American Revolutionary, which, Eric Metaxas writes, succeeded by replacing the king's authority with Americans' faith in God.

derness, who escaped bondage under Pharaoh, we would look to God directly, and would rule ourselves without an earthly king. Everyone in Congress understood this.

When asked to create a seal for the new nation, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson — often thought the least religious of the founders — both came up with images of this very event. Franklin's image was of Moses watching God part the Red Sea while Pharaoh drowned and Jefferson's was of the Israelites being led by a pillar of fire and a cloud. Could anything be more clear? So why haven't most of us heard this before? Well, that's another story.

Eric Metaxas is the author of "REVOLUTION: The Birth of the Greatest Nation in the History of the World" (Skyhorse).

The Macy's Fourth Of July fireworks show litup the sky behind the Empire State Building in 2024.

Young horse riders from the nonprofit Westernaires celebrated last year's Fourth of July during the 15th annual Park Hill Parade in Denver, Colo.

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Our Racist Colleges

Colleges across America have indulged in blatant racial segregation in their dorms for decades — yet only last week did the feds start to make a stink about it.

Sure, it's *liberal* racism — but "no whites allowed" offends the Constitution every bit as much as "no blacks allowed." And this (relatively) innocuous segregation, on half the nation's campus, is only the tip of the iceberg of the *plainly* pernicious racism plaguing US higher education.

"We're trying to do good" doesn't matter; the old-school segregationists, for what it's worth, thought they were doing right.

Housing Secretary Scott Turner last week warned schools that race-based "affinity housing" violates federal anti-discrimination law. Colleges market it as "voluntary" — but discrimination is *never* voluntary for those being discriminated *against*, and the Supreme Court rejected the "separate but equal" claim long ago.

Schools first embraced liberal racism with such dorms, but then went much, much further. De facto racial quotas dominated most university admissions at least until the landmark 2023 Supreme Court ruling in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard.

And no, it's not mere "affirmative action." Discovery in that case proved that colleges discriminate *massively:* Harvard (and the rest of the Ivies have the same policies) rejected Asian kids with SAT scores *hundreds* of points higher than black students it admitted, a toxic approach it "justified" by pretending all the Asians had loser personalities.

And these racists don't want to stop: Soon after the Supremes ruled, universities across the country began dropping use of SATs and other objective measures (using COVID as an excuse). That is, they wanted to make their racism harder to prove.

Faculty hiring has also grown increasingly racist, especially over the last decade — straight white need not apply, at least not 'til all the ones already tenured die off. The Manhattan Institute's John Sailer has found massive evidence of this institutionalized racism in colleges' public postings and internal records.

Who does all this help? Damning 2016 data from the University of California system shows that of minority admits who went into the sciences, less than a quarter graduate with a science degree in five years — and more than 40% don't graduate at all in that timespan.

Cue a race to the bottom to "help" the strugglers by watering down standards: Grade inflation got so bad at Harvard, with As becoming 60% of grades awarded, that the school just imposed a per-course cap.

Faculty are revolting in other ways, too: More than 1,400 profs at Berkeley now demand a return to the SAT (ditched in 2020) as a UC admission requirement so the schools will stop admitting kids who can't hack even entry-level courses. MIT and most Ivies have already restored those exams. Yet ending the worst admissions racism will be far easier that repairing faculties formed by discrimination: Too many tenured profs will fight.

Reclaiming American academia for the purposes and principles it's meant to serve will be a brutal task, but one of the first key steps is calling out the institutional racism that pervades it.

Face the E-Bike Menace

How many New Yorkers must be killed or maimed by rampaging e-bike riders before the political class stops protecting them?

A group of e-bike victims is suing over Mayor Mamdani's insane March order to end criminal enforcement against e-bikes. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch launched that crackdown last year, explaining the need in these pages: "When it comes to traffic safety, compliance is not optional."

But it effectively *is* optional unless scofflaws get criminal summonses, because the penalty for not showing up in traffic court is losing your license, but e-bikes don't *require* licenses. Mamdani ignored that reality, telling the NYPD to back off in the name of fairness, because other motorists don't face criminal summons for traffic violations.

What about fairness *for the victims?*

A recent NYU-Langone study shows the perils: Data from the Bellevue emergency room show that crashes as a share of bike and scooter trauma more than quintupled from 2018 to '23. Plus, a *third* of e-bike crash patients (mostly pedestrians) suffered traumatic brain injuries.

But progressives' sympathies are reserved for the perps who suffer for *breaking* the law. Indeed, far-left City Councilman Lincoln Restler (D-B'klyn) explained the progs' true gripe with criminal e-bike ticketing: "A delivery worker missing a stop sign shouldn't get swept up in deportation proceedings."

That is, many of the scofflaws are illegal immigrants doing delivery work; criminal charges render them prime candidates for deportation. So the progs shield a whole class of perps to coddle illegals who are also breaking New York laws.

Even then, progs could still support Priscilla's Law (named for Priscilla Loke, killed by an e-bike driver in 2023) to require license plates and registration for the e-bikes themselves. Nope: Lefties have blocked it because the anti-car fanatics at Transportation Alternatives (several of them now in top City Hall jobs) don't like it.

"We cannot tolerate these vehicles speeding through traffic, running red lights, ignoring stop signs, driving on the sidewalk and careening through crosswalks," Tisch warned in The Post a year ago; how obscene that her new political masters disagree.

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AMERICAN ORIGIN

The left has tried its best to tarnish the national story — but this 250th birthday is the perfect opportunity to dig deep into our real history

JOHANNA NEUMAN

AS they attached their signatures to the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago, the founders knew they were risking all. Bucking the king was treason, punishable by death.

Writing to John Adams in 1811, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Philadelphia's leading physician, recalled the "pensive and awful silence which pervaded the house when we were called up, one after another, to subscribe what was believed by many at that time to be our own death warrants."

The Declaration's clarion calls — that all men are created equal, that our rights come not from man or government but from our Creator, that governments cannot exist without the consent of the governed — inspire still.

And yet, more than a century of assaults by left-wing critics have bruised the founders, and the founding. In 1913, historian Charles Austin Beard began the onslaught with "An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States," arguing the founders were motivated not by a desire for freedom, but by economic greed. Later generations added screeds about racism and misogyny. Historians issued a verdict that ours was not a real revolution — like the bloody one in France — merely a course correction.

But any reading of the American Revolution's ideological roots shows that the concept of self-governance was much discussed among all classes. Edward Gibbon's "History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" was a best-seller in America, promoting Enlightenment ideas of civic virtue. Rome's ancient history became a roadmap for America's ascendant future.

If Gibbon's work directly influenced the founders, Tom Paine's "Common Sense" sparked the fire for revolution among a wider public.

George Washington — named commander of the Continental Army even before the Declaration — had the book read to his troops. Congress, weighing independence, devoured it. Even critics who cringed at Paine's feverish language conceded its impact.

At a time when many in British America were still loyalists, and others pined only for the rights of citizenship a seat in Parliament might have conferred, Paine demolished the concept of divine rights of kings. "The cause of America is in a great measure the cause of all mankind," he said. "Tis time to part." And finally, the penultimate call, "We have it in our power to begin the world over again. . . . The birthday of a new world is at hand."

Against this proud history, the left has promoted a deceptive counter narrative. Led by an agenda-driven writer, Nikole Hannah-Jones, advanced by The New York Times into classrooms across the country, the 1619 Project argues the founders came to America not for religious freedom but to perpetuate slavery. The Puritans would beg to differ.

This is what our children have been taught — and what President Trump seems keen to correct in his massive, prideful celebration of our 250th birthday. Under his builder's eye, Washing-

Nikole Hannah-Jones is the writer behind The New York Times' 1619 Project, which claims that the founders came to America not for freedom but to perpetuate slavery.

Getty Images

ton, DC, is getting a thorough clean-up — the algae-ridden water in the Tidal Basin will soon sparkle with American flag blue water. And heroes toppled by revisionists are standing again.

In Freedom Square, near 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, Caesar Rodney is making his comeback. Gravely ill with a skin cancer, in constant pain, Rodney rode 80 miles through a storm to cast Delaware's vote for Independence, ensuring one delegate from all 13 colonies had affirmed. Toppled during the 2020 riots, Rodney's horse-riding statue is upright again.

As Trump pitches patriotism, radical Democrats protest the American experiment, where, as Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently put it, "you're not limited by the circumstances of your birth, by the color of your skin, by your ethnicity."

In New York, Mayor Zohran Mamdani has banned gatherings of more than 20 people for the celebration, marked by a Times Square ball-drop as July 3 turns to July 4.

And in Philadelphia, which gave birth to both the Declaration and the Constitution, the city's namesake museum has a new exhibit that reads like an apologia for our history. Its theme: Slaves built the country as white settlers colonized it. Plus, "All men are created equal" did not apply to all.

But at the time, Jefferson's words did resonate. Slaves, Indians, women — all heard the call. John Adams worried the founders were opening a Pandora's Box.

"There will be no end of it," he wrote.

"New claims will arise; women will demand a vote; lads from twelve to twenty one will think their rights not enough attended to; and every man who has not a farthing will demand an equal voice with any other."

In his original version of the Declaration, Jefferson's grievances included one that would surprise his 21st century critics. It said King George "has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people" in slavery. Fighting the mightiest military in the world — with a ragtag Army often marching barefoot — would not succeed if the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia left the union. They would rise or fall together.

But why? Why did they risk life and fortune? Weighing the decision, Patrick Henry told the Second Virginia Convention in 1775: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Despite critics' revisionism, that passion for liberty always defined America. And, Trump is betting, it still does.

Johanna Neuman is a historian and the author of "Trump's Superpower: A Historical Novel About the Founding Fathers and One Founding Mother" (Post Hill Press).

LETTERS

Not just Tay's day

Really, street closures around Madison Square Garden from July 2 to July 4 for Taylor Swift's wedding ("Clues for Tay's day," June 25)?

This is also the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Did anyone think about the inconvenience and chaos this would cause for traffic and pedestrians on this special holiday? Thousands of people will be coming to Manhattan for the spectacular fireworks.

Between massive street closures, wedding attendees' Ubers and limos, security and fans, the streets will be a mess. So much for enjoying this historic holiday.

Carol Puttre-Czyz, Manhattan

Keir kowtowed left

Brendan O'Neill is dead right: Far-left crackpot policies sank Keir Starmer and are sinking Britain ("Keir chose to lib dangerously," June 23).

But will the United Kingdom's self-inflicted wounds be a "lesson to leftist parties everywhere?" No way; they've long since shown that they don't, won't and can't learn.

It's America's independent voters who need to learn that lesson, even if it means dropping their Trump Derangement Syndrome just for the brief few minutes they're voting in November's midterms.

Bill Marsano, Manhattan

Show the vandals

The reflecting pool in DC is under constant video surveillance ("Vandals uncool to pool," June 23).

Can anyone provide the footage of vandals cutting a 350-foot slice into the bottom of the pool that President Trump himself said could not be cut?

Trump constantly changes his lies, and the Republican propaganda machine falls in line.

Bruce Ellis, Houston, Texas

Sick schemers

I cannot believe that some medical professionals — people whose hands we put our lives into — so blatantly defraud the system we need for our medical coverage ("Med expenses are doctored," June 24)

The outlandish spending they've done is outrageous. People can't afford medications or even medical procedures but these disgusting greedy people take millions out of the system to buy designer jewelry and foreign cars.

Those who've enriched themselves need to be sent to prison for a very long time.

Chelli Nobile, East Islip

Justice served

Sunny Hostin needs a zipper on her face, and she and her co-hosts at "The View" should take a permanent recess from TV ("Lies in full 'View,'" Kirsten Fleming, June 25).

This so-called lawyer says Karmelo did not receive a fair trial. Karmelo Anthony was a knife-toting punk who murdered Austin Metcalf in cold blood. He was tried fairly, something Austin did not get from Anthony.

Metcalf was the victim of Anthony's stupidity and criminality, and a jury convicted him of murder — a just verdict. Anthony was and is the villain. He is in prison where he belongs.

Gary Acerra, Staten Island

Chi-town's TDS

After Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker refused federal help, suggesting they have Chicago's crime under control, shootings and homicides are up compared to last year ("Don: Call & I'll lower crime in Chi-town minute," June 24).

What's on display is Democrats' strategy of being against whatever President Trump says or does. The public be damned.

Nick Di Benedetto, Beverly Hills, Fla.

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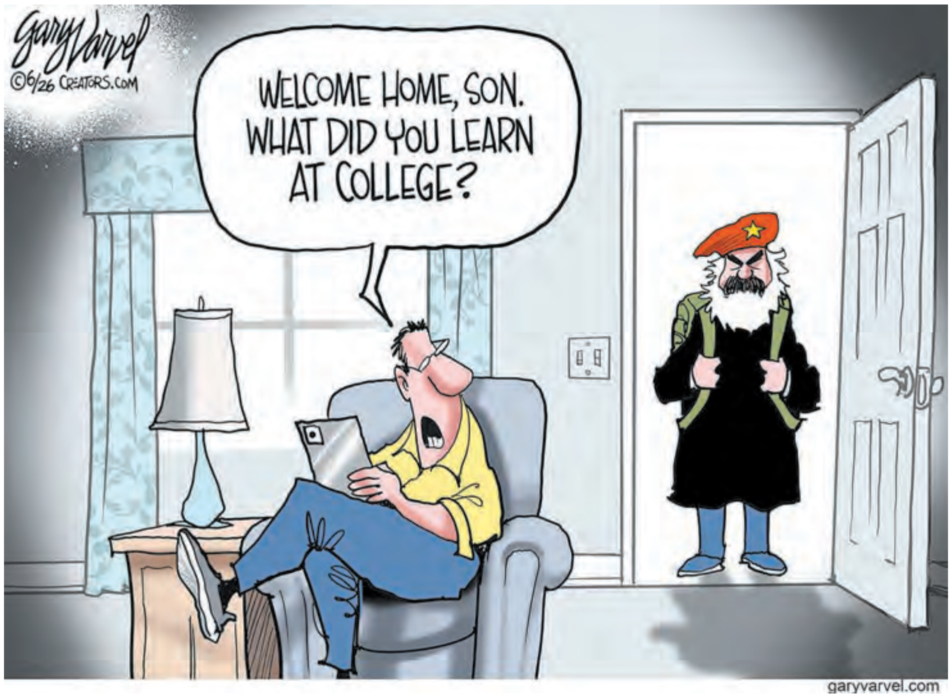
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REQUIRED READING

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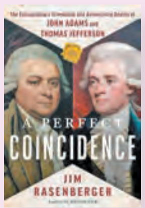
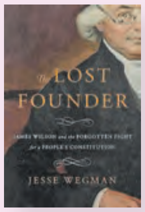


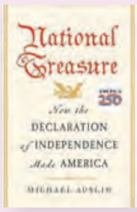
A Perfect Coincidence: The Extraordinary Friendship and Astonishing Deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
Jim Rasenberger (Scribner)
John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted. The two Founding Fathers had a complicated relationship that ranged from close friendship to bitter political rivalry, which Rasenberger explores.

This Land Is Your Land: A Road Trip through U.S. History
Beverly Gage (Simon & Schuster)
Gage, who teaches at Yale and won a Pulitzer for her biography of J. Edgar Hoover, decided to get out of the ivory tower and visit historical sites across the country. Her journey begins at the Brandywine Battlefield in Pennsylvania, a key Revolutionary War site, and ends in California, where she checks out the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum and Disneyland.

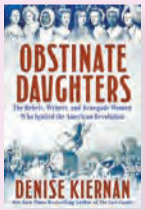


The Lost Founder: James Wilson and the Forgotten Fight for a People's Constitution
Jesse Wegman (Celadon Books)
James Wilson, a Scottish-American lawyer, wrote the first draft of the US Constitution but racked up debts, died of malaria while hiding from creditors and was left out of the history books.

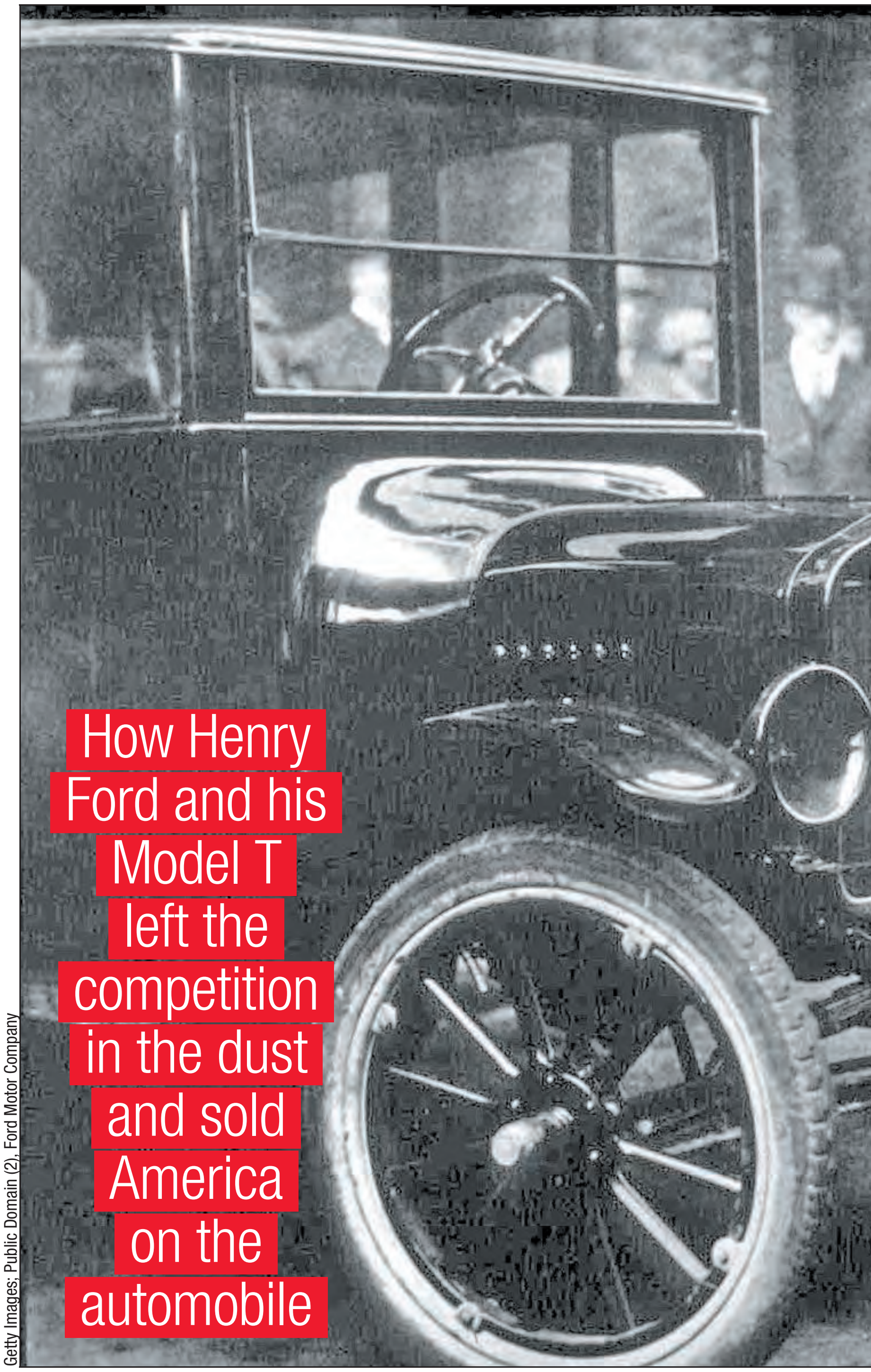
1,000 Days in America: An Illustrated History of the Moments That Defined a Nation
David M. Rubenstein, David Treuer (National Geographic)
This comprehensive, strikingly illustrated tome starts with Parliament passing the Townshend Acts in 1767 and works its way through to the present day. Notable historians — Michael Beschloss, Douglas Brinkley, Annette Gordon-Reed and Walter Isaacson — lend insightful commentary.



National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America
Michael Auslin (Avid Reader Press)
Auslin tracks the foundational document over the years — from Thomas Jefferson drafting it in 1776 to it being saved from fire during the War of 1812 to modern preservation efforts — and explores what it means today for our fractured nation.



Obstinate Daughters: The Rebels, Writers, and Renegade Women Who Ignited the American Revolution
Denise Kiernan (Dutton)
From Nanye'hi, a Cherokee leader who defiantly warned settlers of potential attacks, to Laura Wolcott, who melted down statues to make musket balls that helped the American Continental Army win the Battles of Saratoga, Kiernan highlights the many women who were pivotal to the Revolution and the country's founding.



How Henry Ford and his Model T left the competition in the dust and sold America on the automobile

Getty Images; Public Domain (2), Ford Motor Company

by ERIC SPITZNAGEL

THE ferry broke down at exactly the wrong moment for everyone except Henry Ford.

On June 8, 1909, two stripped-down Ford Model Ts rolled onto a little wooden ferry at Glasgow, Mo., and crossed the Missouri River. The cars were filthy, the men inside them were running on fumes, and a Boston-built Shawmut was closing fast behind them in a cross-country race.

Then the ferry quit. The boat that'd just carried the Fords to the western bank suddenly couldn't return for the Shawmut or the Acme, another trailing car. The official explanation was mechanical failure, but the timing looked almost theatrical.

"It's such an uncanny moment," Eric Moskowitz, author of the new book "The Hardest, Longest Race: Henry Ford and the Cross-Country Contest That Changed America" (St. Martins Press), out now, tells The Post. "People sit up whenever I tell them about it."

The Shawmut crew, stranded on the wrong side of the river, had a choice. They could lose hours searching for another crossing. Or they could aim the car toward the railroad bridge looming above the water, a half-mile of ties, gaps and terror, with no guarantee a train wouldn't come roaring through. They chose the bridge.

That white-knuckle decision is one of the wildest episodes in Moskowitz's book, which tells the story of the 1909 Ocean-to-Ocean Race for the Guggenheim Cup, a 4,100-mile contest from New York City to Seattle that helped sell America on the automobile and gave Henry Ford the origin myth every empire needs.

It also raised a century-old question: Did Ford win because the Model T was that good, or because his organization was that ruthless?

Moskowitz believes the answer is clearly, "Both."

The contest was promoted as the first true coast-to-coast automobile race in America, even though earlier long-distance runs blurred that claim. It began on June 1, 1909, in front of New York's City Hall, where thousands gathered to watch Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. fire a gold-plated revolver.

The timing was tied to Seattle's Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, a World's Fair meant to show off the city and the Pacific Northwest. President William Howard Taft pressed a ceremonial telegraph key in Washington, sending a signal that opened the exposition in Seattle and also launched the race in New York.

The contest was supposed to demonstrate the promise of the automobile. It also showed how little of America was ready for one.

The route called for thirty checkpoints, including stops in Poughkeepsie, Buffalo, Chicago, St. Louis, Denver, Boise and North Yakima.

In the East, racers had mandatory rest periods. West of the Mississippi, it was a free-for-all across mud, mountains, wagon trails and whatever passed for roads when the country still mostly belonged to horses, trains and weather.

Only five cars made the start: two Model Ts, an Acme, a Shawmut and an Itala. Beside the larger, more expensive cars, the Fords looked almost comic. Their exhaust systems and mufflers had been removed. Their bodies had been stripped down to little more than chassis and seats. The Model T cost $850, while its bigger rivals cost thousands.

"Spectators sizing up the pack dismissed the runty Fords," Moskowitz writes.

Ford, who'd founded his eponymous auto company six years earlier, loved that. At that point, he was 45 years old and successful but not yet immortal.

"One thing that struck me was just how often the newspapers got his first name wrong, especially outside of Detroit," Moskowitz said. "In 1909, this was a living, breathing person who wasn't yet a household name, and it was far from clear what the future would hold for him."

Ford had money, a new house, a son in private school and control of his company. He also faced a dangerous patent lawsuit, massive ambitions and a market full of competitors. "If things don't break a certain way," Moskowitz said, "he'd fade into history at this point as an affluent guy who was moderately well known in Detroit for a few years."

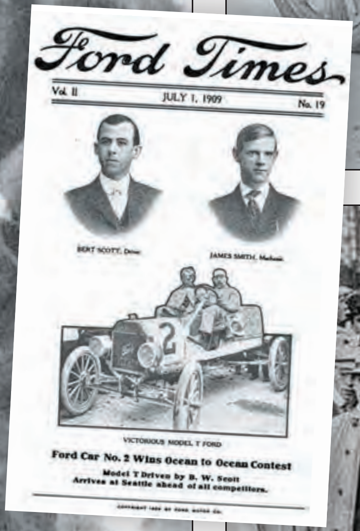
The race was his chance to make sure things went his way.

His secret weapon wasn't only the Model T. It was the Ford network. Across the country, Ford branch managers, dealers and local guides were waiting like a human telegraph line, ready to steer the Model Ts through roads that were barely marked and often barely roads.

The Shawmut had no such machine

RACE TO THE FUTURE

Henry Ford (pictured) believed his Model T was a "more democratic car," but that didn't mean he was going to run the 1909 Ocean-to-Ocean Race entirely fairly — or stop advertising his win (inset) even after it was overturned.



Ford Times

Vol. II JULY 1, 1909 No. 19

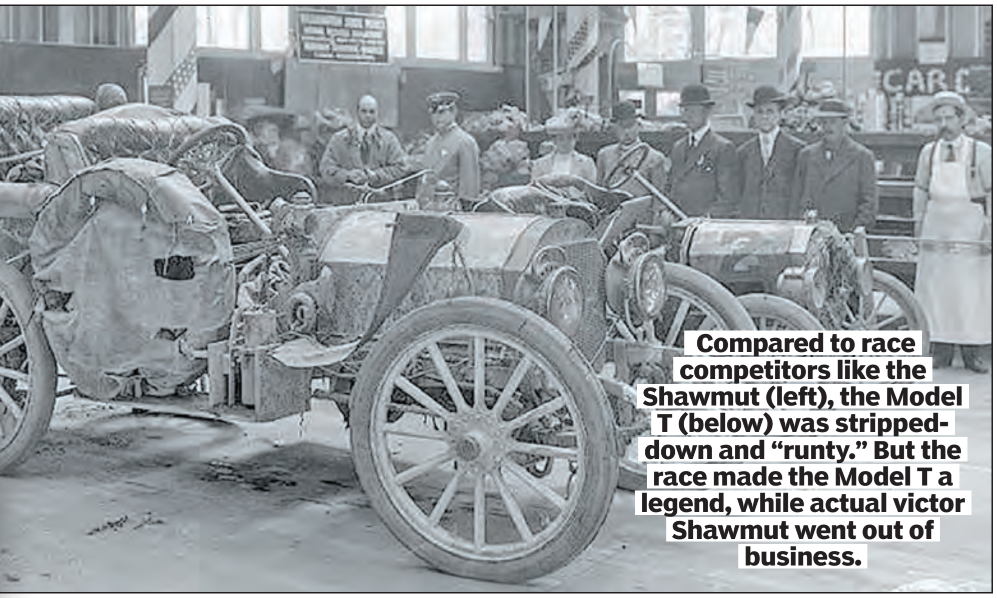
BERT SCOTT, Driver

JAMES SMITH, Mechanic

VICTORIOUS MODEL T FORD

Ford Car No. 2 Wins Ocean to Ocean Contest

Model T Driven by B. W. Scott Arrives at Seattle ahead of all competitors.



Compared to race competitors like the Shawmut (left), the Model T (below) was stripped-down and "runty." But the race made the Model T a legend, while actual victor Shawmut went out of business.

behind it. The car came from Stoneham, Mass., where its factory had burned down the previous November. The race was a Hail Mary, a way to make enough noise that investors might notice before the company disappeared.

In the Shawmut was Earle Chapin, a young mechanic who sometimes took the wheel and wrote constantly to his wife Caroline, whom he called "Anita." Every letter had to be scratched out between breakdowns, wrong turns and punishing miles, from a car that was carrying him farther from home than he'd ever meant to go.

Finding those letters, Moskowitz says, changed everything for him.

"It was electrifying, and I knew right away it would be the heart of the book," he said. "What are the odds that these letters would be from someone in the Shawmut car, and that he'd be writing so frequently and with so much energy and emotion to his 24-year-old sweetheart back home?"

Chapin was missing their first wedding anniversary for "this crazy adventure," Moskowitz said, while "the fate of Shawmut" was on the line.

Soon enough, romance gave way to road horror. In Kansas, rain turned the land into what one motorist called "mud, water and glue," swallowing wheels and forcing the crews to push, dig and drive through the night in clothes stiff with cold and sweat. By the time the Fords reached Goodland, Kan., they were so caked in filth that reporters described the drivers as some strange new species.

In Fort Steele, Wyo., the Shawmut hit another Ford-engineered wall. Its crew reached a Union Pacific railroad bridge over the North Platte River and found Charlie Hendy, Ford's Denver branch manager, waiting with an armed guard. Hendy insisted nobody could drive across without permission from Omaha, even though local practice had allowed cars over the bridge. The Fords had permission, but the Shawmut did not.

The
HARDEST, LONGEST RACE
Henry Ford
AND THE CROSS-COUNTRY CONTEST THAT CHANGED AMERICA
ERIC MOSKOWITZ
PULITZER PRIZE WINNER TEAM MEMBER

Chapin later called it "a damned crooked deal."

Moskowitz sees the episode as part of a larger Ford pattern. The company had built a brilliant coast-to-coast support system that gave Ford's men countless chances to tilt the race without leaving fingerprints.

The Ford team ultimately got caught "not because of what happens at Glasgow, which can't be proven, or Fort Steele, which they freely own up to," Moskowitz said, but because of something more concrete. "They secretly change the engine on the 'winning' Model T," leaving behind "a paper trail in the form of a shipping record."

That happened after the No. 2 Ford broke down in Cokeville, Wy. The engine trouble should've been disastrous. Under the rules, major parts had been stamped before the race. Replacing an engine meant the car could continue, but it couldn't legally win.

The Ford crew swapped in another engine, repaired the original stamped engine, shipped it ahead and quietly swapped it back before the finish-line inspection.

The final stretch was brutal. Chapin became so ill in Baker City, Ore., that a doctor diagnosed him with "auto intoxication," a period term for the punishment of endless motoring. The Shawmut had to go on without him.

The Ford, meanwhile, crossed Washington's Snoqualmie Pass through mud, snow and stumps. Henry Ford and his 15-year-old son Edsel took a train west and then drove into the Cascades to meet it. The No. 2 Ford reached Seattle first on June 23, greeted by cheers, flashbulbs and a story that seemed too perfect to resist.

The Model T had beaten the big cars. Ford had conquered the continent. America had seen its automotive future.

Then, Shawmut protested.

The initial hearing in Seattle went Ford's way. But the Automobile Club of America later reviewed the evidence and disqualified the No. 2 Ford for the engine swap.

The Shawmut was declared the official winner, but it hardly mattered at that point.

"The news landed with a whisper," Moskowitz writes. Ford dealers kept advertising the Model T as the winner of the New York-to-Seattle race. In 1909, Shawmut went out of business.

It was a cruel irony. Shawmut won the cup, but Ford won the country.

The contest exposed an America trapped between eras, a nation of railroads and mud about to be remade by speed.

Moskowitz said people in 1909 knew they were living through "the onrush of modernity," when technology was "making life ever better, at least for the consumer class."

But the race also proved something harsher. The future didn't arrive cleanly. It came through gumbo mud, broken bridges, missing ferries, backroom pressure, clever advertising and a tiny car that was a rolling myth factory.

Ford believed he'd built "a different kind of car, a more democratic car," Moskowitz said, "but he wasn't going to leave the outcome to chance."

The Cat's Out of the Bag

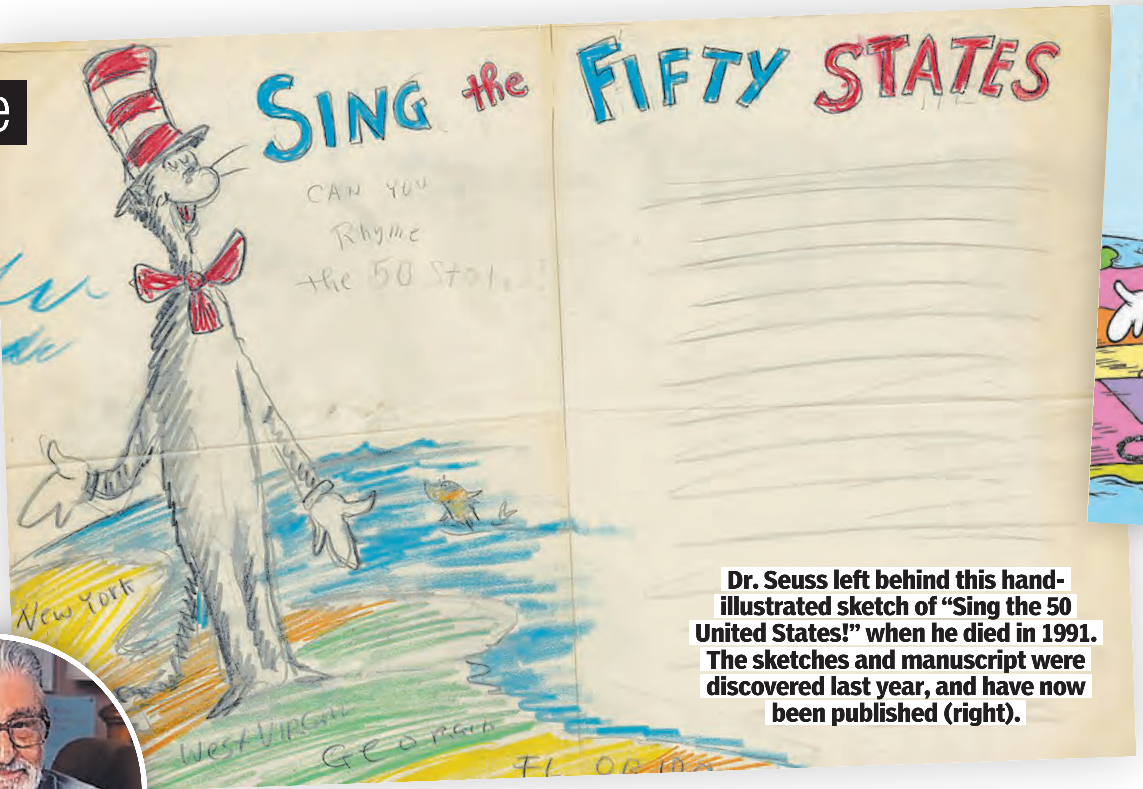
Rare find from Dr. Seuss archive fetes the USA

By SHIVANI VORA

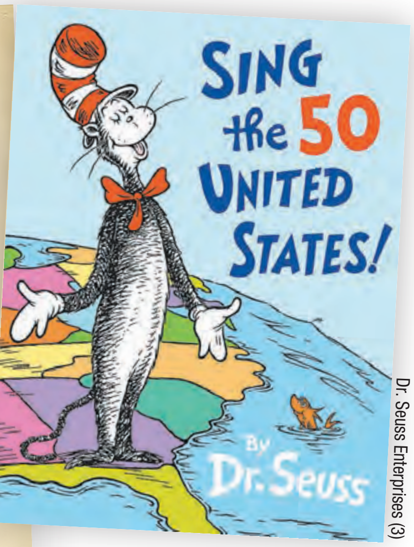
"TO sing the 50 United States you have to use your brain. Massachusetts. Minnesota. Missouri and Montana, M-i-s-s-Mississippi. Maryland! Michigan and Maine!"

The playful lines may have a familiar ring, but few people have ever heard them before.

They're the opening sentences of "Sing the 50 United States!," a rhyming romp by Dr. Seuss that remained hidden for more than three decades before being discovered last year. The book, released earlier this month, is the first full manuscript by Dr. Seuss — who died in September 1991 and whose real name was Theodor Seuss Geisel — to be uncovered since the posthumous release of his "What Pet Should I Get?" in 2015.



Dr. Seuss left behind this hand-illustrated sketch of "Sing the 50 United States!" when he died in 1991. The sketches and manuscript were discovered last year, and have now been published (right).



Dr. Seuss Enterprises (3)

Cat Reynolds, the executive editor for Dr. Seuss Publishing and Beginner Books, uncovered the book in the spring of 2025, along with her two colleagues — the now-retired Dr. Seuss Publishing executive editor Alice Jonaitis and Rodale Kids editorial director Sara Sargent — while they were combing through the author's archives at UC San Diego's Geisel Library.

Reynolds describes the archives as "massive" and made up of approximately 20,000 pieces, including drawings, handwritten notes and partially finished drafts of his books.

"We were there looking for illustrations we could use for the 70th anniversary of 'The Cat in the Hat' and 'The Grinch,' which are in 2027," she said. "The moment we realized this was a complete manuscript of something that was completely unknown, we were amazed . . . It was completely ready for publication — not even a punctuation mark needed to be changed."

Dr. Seuss also left behind rough sketches and a book map outlining how the book might unfold, which the Random House team used as a guide for the illustrations. Reynolds, Jonaitis and Sargent also landed on several unfinished versions of the manuscript, including one covered with Geisel's handwritten notes on typed pages.

Rather than revealing anything new about the author, "Sing the 50 United States!" — which finds the Cat in the Hat and his two Little Cat companions rhyming their way through all 50 states — reinforces Dr. Seuss's gift for making learning fun.

"This book is an example of his signature rhyme, joyful language, and imagination," Reynolds said.

She noted that the manuscript is distinctive from other Dr. Seuss stories because the words emphasize the musicality of his rhymes with a unique rhythm. "Dr. Seuss loved to write songs, and even released a songbook, 'The Cat in the Hat's Songbook,' " she told The Post.

Random House released one million copies of "Sing the 50 United States!," double its initially planned print run, because there was such strong interest in it.

"This book is a rare treasure, and we want to get it out to as many people as we can," said Reynolds.

BUZZ: Unlikely women investigated JFK assassination

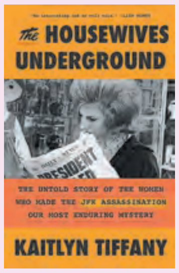
SYLVIA Meagher's life changed the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Until then, the New Yorker had what she considered her dream job. An editor and researcher at the United Nations, working for the World Health Organization, Meagher, then 42, spent her days immersed in world affairs, happily navigating the corridors of international power. But, after the tragedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, she couldn't return to her daily life and carry on.

The more she read about the assassination, the more questions she had. And when the government finally released its findings, she became obsessed with finding the truth.

In "The Housewives Underground: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the JFK Assassination Our Most Enduring Mystery" (Crown), author Kaitlyn Tiffany tells the remarkable story of Meagher and two other unlikely investigators — Oklahoma housewife Shirley Martin and Maggie Field, the wealthy wife of a Californian stockbroker — who devoted years of their lives to challenging the official account of what happened in Dallas.

"They were disillusioned and bitter, yet they still believed in some possible future in which the country they lived in could be more like the one they'd been promised," Tiffany writes. "Somehow they never questioned their obligation to participate in its creation."


The HOUSEWIVES UNDERGROUND
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WOMEN WHO MADE THE JFK ASSASSINATION OUR MOST ENDURING MYSTERY
KAITLYN TIFFANY

When the Warren Commission released its report in September 1964, the verdict seemed straightforward: Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone. But it wasn't.

Buried beneath the report's conclusions were 26 volumes of supporting evidence containing nearly 18,000 pages of testimony, exhibits and documents. The Government Printing Office made the mountain of material available to the public, but few Americans bothered to read it.

Sylvia Meagher not only read it — she practically memorized it and created a encyclopedic index that became an indispensable tool for assassination researchers.

She also began writing letters to newspapers challenging their coverage of the case and publishing essays highlighting contradictions and unanswered questions within the Warren Report.

She soon discovered she wasn't alone.

Across the country, other amateur investigators were arriving at similar conclusions.

One was Martin, whose relentless digging made her a headache for J. Edgar Hoover's FBI.

Another was Field, a New Yorker living in California, who turned her home into an assassination command center, hosting screenings of the famous Zapruder film and recruiting friends and neighbors into the cause.

Together, the three women formed an unlikely alliance.

In a pre-internet era, they exchanged information through letters, phone calls and occasional meetings. Martin gathered witness testimony in Dallas. Field circulated documents and connected researchers. Meagher became the group's analytical powerhouse, comparing claims against the official evidence and hosting gatherings of fellow "Warrenologists" in her apartment. What united them was a growing belief that the government's explanation simply didn't add up.

Ultimately the three women became central figures in a growing movement of assassination critics. They had no institutional support, no major funding and no official authority, yet their work helped fuel a wave of public skepticism that continues more than 60 years later.

— Gavin Newsham

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Sunday Break

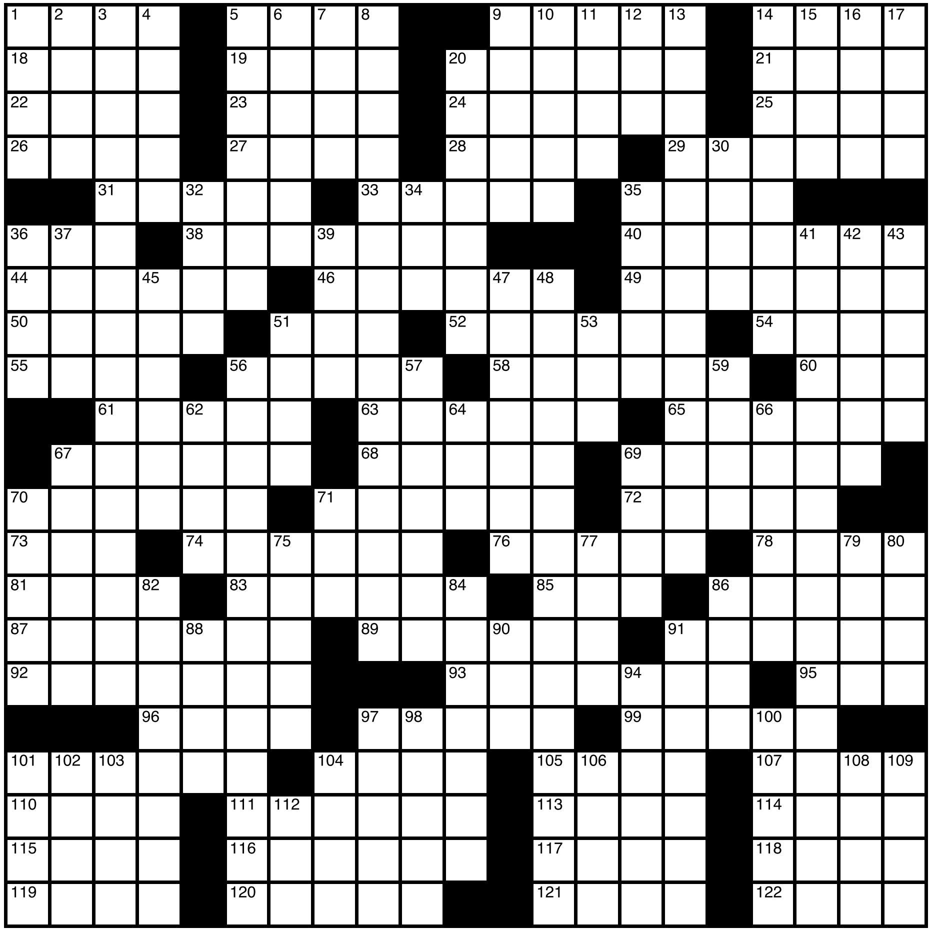
"WRITE-UPS" By Emet Ozar

Across

1 Dragon roll wrap
5 X-ray specs?
9 Sea anemone, e.g.
14 Spanakopita cheese
18 Equally matched
19 Awards achievement completed by Steven Spielberg in 2026
20 Thin layer
21 Keen
22 Suggestions, for short
23 Fizzy beverage
24 Chilling
25 K, in the NATO alphabet
26 Give up
27 Layer
28 Rogan josh bread
29 Gets a whiff
31 Caramel candies
33 Feathery pen
35 Kaplan prep course subj.
36 Up in the air, briefly
38 Biceps exercise
40 Falcons city
44 Mysterious to many
46 Marimba player
49 Black eyes
50 Ecological community
51 FYI part
52 Fly
54 Whack, as a fly
55 Without a partner
56 1492 ship
58 Damage
60 Pre-1991 atlas initials
61 Teased
63 Escapes the notice of
65 Lyric poet of Lesbos
67 Corrupt
68 Landscaping tools
69 Off course
70 "That's impossible for us"
71 Missing class
72 Prepare to play
73 Canadian prov.
74 Empire Builder operator
76 Small sip
78 Target of a brood parasite such as the cowbird
81 Best-___ plans
83 Mine vehicle
85 Mass transit option
86 American Eagle Outfitters loungewear brand
87 Home of Jupiter
89 Uses a prayer mat, e.g.
91 Much of the heart
92 Powerfully built
93 Gorillagram costume
95 Blesses
96 Bluetooth device's lack, often
97 Bare-bones
99 Sneak around
101 Composer Bach
104 "Alice's Restaurant" singer Guthrie
105 "Very funny"
107 Large lump
110 Declare
111 For nothing
113 Eager
114 Sign of things to come
115 Last name of sisters Rooney and Kate
116 Meshes in the kitchen
117 Dominate
118 In the know about
119 Crush it on the runway, say
120 "Circles Around This Town" singer Morris
121 Smidgens
122 Hushed "hey!"

Down

1 Deep member of a fandom
2 Concluded
3 Pride and joy of many an audiophile
4 Motivation, in hashtags
5 Put back
6 Extreme self-involvement
7 Mean relative?
8 One who takes the snap and the spotlight
9 "She loves me, she loves me not" piece
10 Lakers legend Shaquille
11 Like ground turkey
12 "100%!"
13 Insist on a debate, perhaps
14 Sunless glow-ups
15 Wicked
16 Cultivate
17 Ruckuses
20 Spice native to Mesoamerica
30 Senegal neighbor
32 "Stay in your ___!"
34 Clickable link
35 Carbonara ingredient
36 Browser units
37 Pizzazz
39 "Shake a leg!"
41 Editorial essays, or what 3-, 8-, 13-, 48-, and 56-Down are
42 Tawdry
43 Houston pro
45 Single-celled creature
47 Barefaced
48 Memorization aid in math class
51 "Whatever"
53 Kaplan prep course subjs.
56 Cultural movement of the 1960s and 1970s
57 Fairbanks resident
59 Grade
62 CNN anchor Bash
64 Luau instrument, informally
66 Dried plums
67 Koyukon name of North America's tallest peak
69 Play parts, or plays a part
70 Gobbles (down)
71 Exist
75 Take stock?
77 Work (out)
79 Lingerie fabric
80 Some gym tops
82 Recoiled
84 Works (out)
86 Camera setting
88 "Victory is mine!"
90 Prefix with Pen
91 Desert deceptions
94 Sustain
97 Lionhearted
98 Rocky of "Project Hail Mary," for one
100 Joyful holler
101 Preserves
102 Like some coffee tables
103 Jewish wedding dance
104 Declare
106 Oaxaca water
108 Team that shares an arena with the Liberty
109 Binding loop
112 Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"



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Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow's New York Post.

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Very Easy #7,323

	9			4	3		8	
		4	1	9	8	6		2
	3				6	4		
8						3		9
			7		9			
6		9						4
		1	6				7	
4		7	9	8	5	2		
	2		3	1			4	

Difficult #7,113

5	1		2		7			4
						1		6
					9			
		4			8	6		
		8	5		6	7		
			7	3				
6		2						
8			9		4		7	

Challenging #561

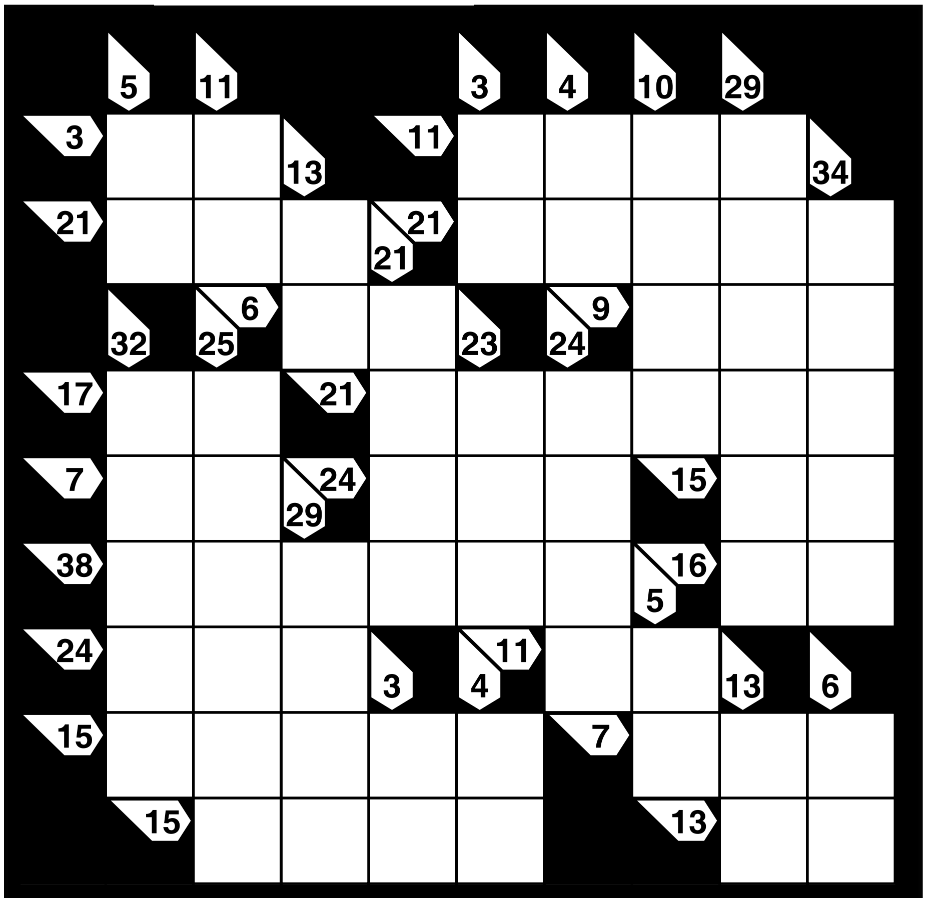
1			2		3			6
		9			7			
	8							4
4	7	5		2		6		
		6		9		8	5	1
7							3	
			1			7		
6			5		9			2

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 54

All Sunday puzzle answers
are on Page 54

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



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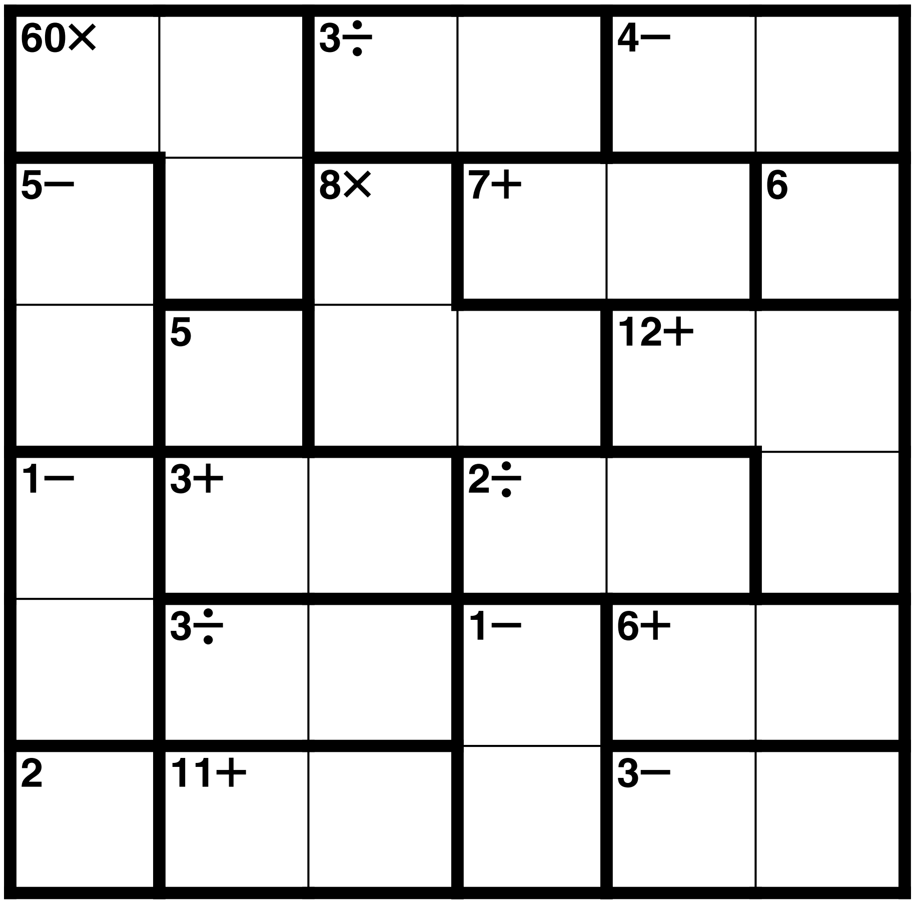
#561

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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Chess

Simply winning

By Andy Soltis

Simple, solid moves may allow you to build up a winning strategic advantage. But it often takes clever tactics to cash in.

In this week's game, White realized he could safely grab a pawn with 15 Bxb7! and 16 Qa7!.

He escaped danger with the nice shots 17 Bg5!, 18 Bxf6 and 19 Nd5!.

But then he passed up a relatively easy tactic, 20 Nxf6+! Qxf6 21 Qxc5, that would have sealed the point.

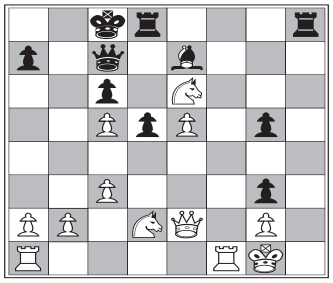
Instead, he sacrificed a bishop and overlooked Black's comeback bid, 23...Bb4!.

But then it was Black's turn to err. With 24...Qe6! the outcome of the game would have been uncertain.

That error permitted a final White tactic, 25 Nf5+!, that won Black's queen.

BOGO-INDIAN DEFENSE
Moscow 2026

Maxim Matlakov	Andrey Tsvetkov
1 d4 .... Nf6	15 Bxb7!.......... Rb8
2 c4...................... e6	16 Qa7!........... Qe7
3 g3 .... Bb4+	17 Bg5!............ Bc5
4 Bd2 ....a5	18 Bxf6 .... gxf6
5 Bg2 ....d5	19 Nd5!............Qd6
6 Qa4+ Bd7	20 Qxa5?.......Rxb7
7 Qc2 .... Nc6	21 Qc3 .... Kg7
8 Nf3 .... dxc4	22 Rac1 .... Bg4
9 Qxc4 .... Bd6	23 Ne3 ....Bb4!
10 O-O e5	24 Qb3 ....Be6??
11 Nc3 .... exd4	25 Nf5+!.........Bxf5
12 Nxd4.........Nxd4	26 Rxd6 .... cxd6
13 Qxd4...........O-O	27 Qd5..... Resigns
14 Rfd1............Qe8	



Black to play and win.
M. Portelli - T. Dovbysh
European Championship 2026
Last week: 1 Nd5! Qd8 2 Rxe7! Rxe7 3 Qg5+ (3...Kf8 4 Qh6+ and mates).

Sunday Word Force

PATENTOR

From the word or phrase above, form at least 18 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

Decades ago, "par contests" were a popular form of competition. The deals were prepared, constructed to illustrate abstruse points of technique. Players were scored on how many of the problems they solved. There might be "pars" in both bidding and play, but for play problems, the auction was directed so that declarer played at the designated contract.

But par events lost favor. To stage one required preparation. Many of the themes grew familiar, and devising new ones was taxing. Tournament play grew more popular, especially with the rise of professionalism and the emphasis on bidding systems and conventions. And several factors led to a decline in the overall standard of play (my opinion), making par contests unattractive.

At one time, the Intercollegiate event was a par contest. Today's deal was used in the 1957 event. (In those days, and even a dozen years later when I was studying at Alabama, there were daily bridge games in the student union.) West leads the king of hearts against six spades. After declarer takes the ace, how should he play?

To lead a trump isn't safe; a defender might win and lead a second trump, and then South might lose a diamond. Suppose South takes the A-K of diamonds, ruffs a diamond in dummy and leads a trump. He has fallen into the deal constructor's trap. West takes the ace and leads his last diamond, and East ruffs.

After declarer ruffs the first diamond in dummy, he must ruff a club and ruff a fourth diamond. Then he can ruff a club, force out the ace of trumps and take the rest.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 5
♡ 9 8 4 2
◇ 4 3
♣ Q J 10 9 4

WEST
♠ A
♡ K Q J 7 3
◇ J 10 7 5
♣ K 3 2

EAST
♠ 4 3 2
♡ 10 6 5
◇ 8 6
♣ A 8 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 6
♡ A
◇ A K Q 9 2
♣ None

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♡ K

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All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Boggle® BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

L	E	T	T	M
M	U	R	O	O
Y	H	S	U	H
N	E	B	I	O
A	R	Z	S	N

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT FIVE-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.

______________ ______________

______________ ______________

______________ ______________

______________ ______________

6-28-26

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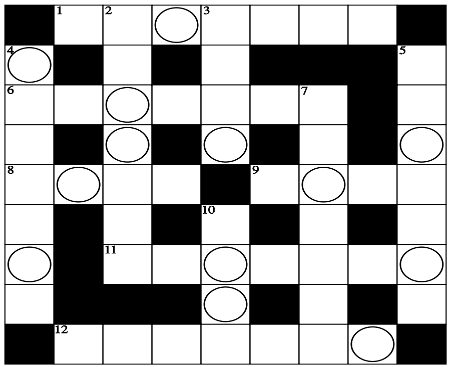
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



6-28-26

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Removed from action	NEBCDHE
6. Financial examiner	RUDOIAT
8. Put to work	ESDU
9. At a distance	FRAA
11. Tiny schooling fish	NARDISE
12. Exceptional talent	DROGPIY

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. Infinite	NESDLSE
3. Adorably charming	ETCU
4. First month	NARYJAU
5. Punctured	EPECIDR
7. Whitewater activity	RNIATGF
10. Power system	DRGI

How to play

Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: He said, "A two-year-old is kind of like having a blender, but you don't have a top for it."

○○○○○ ○○○○○○○○

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SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A_1	E_1	O_1	V_4	R_1	G_2	F_4	3rd Letter Double	RACK 1
I_1	O_1	O_1	L_1	D_2	C_3	L_1		RACK 2
E_1	I_1	O_1	N_1	R_1	W_4	B_3		RACK 3
A_1	I_1	O_1	H_4	L_1	S_1	B_3		RACK 4
E_1	E_1	O_1	Y_4	N_1	T_1	K_5	Triple Word Score	RACK 5

PAR SCORE 260-270
BEST SCORE 341

FIVE RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

2			4	9		6	10	11			
7					11	4					2
	12		3	5				1		10	
		9	6	7	4	1	5	10		8	
10	7				8	11					9
		12							11		
		3							7		
11					6	3				1	4
	8		7	11	1	12	2	3	10		
	3		9				11	2		12	
8					9	2					3
			11	3	7		6				10

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Alaska, Alberta, Appalachian, Arctic, Border, Boundary, Bridges, British Columbia, Buffalo, Cars, City, Close, Coal, Country, Currency, Detroit, Drive, Dual, Export, Farm, Fish, Global, Great Lakes, Heritage, History, Hockey, Idaho, Import, Lake Erie, Lewiston, Lumber, Maine, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Mountains, Music, Near, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, New York, Niagara Falls, North Dakota, Ohio, Olympics, Ontario, Parks, Peace, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Road, Rockies, Saskatchewan, School, Soccer, Sports, States, St. Lawrence, Team, Trade, Vermont, Visa, Washington, Windsor, Yukon

THE U.S. & CANADA ARE NEIGHBORS **SOL: 10 LETTERS**

C	S	S	T	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	C
O	N	C	L	N	E	W	B	R	U	N	S	W	I	C	K	O	S	I	O
L	I	V	I	L	A	N	C	U	R	R	E	N	C	Y	R	I	T	S	U
A	A	Y	E	P	A	G	S	E	T	A	T	S	E	O	F	C	T	T	N
F	T	E	Q	R	M	F	I	D	A	O	R	G	S	W	R	T	D	O	T
F	N	K	L	U	M	Y	A	H	I	A	R	D	G	A	Y	R	E	R	R
U	U	C	A	U	E	O	L	R	C	E	N	S	I	S	T	O	T	Y	Y
B	O	O	K	R	D	B	N	O	A	I	E	B	Y	H	I	P	R	S	N
O	M	H	E	O	A	T	E	T	W	G	M	N	U	I	C	M	O	K	O
R	I	A	E	C	R	E	L	C	D	U	A	O	K	N	P	I	I	R	T
D	N	P	R	K	T	A	N	I	L	W	N	I	O	G	L	E	T	A	S
E	N	P	I	I	K	M	R	O	E	U	I	M	N	T	L	A	A	P	I
R	E	A	E	E	U	B	C	H	A	O	T	Y	O	O	M	O	O	C	W
E	S	L	S	S	L	H	C	L	N	T	O	S	R	N	H	R	B	C	E
B	O	A	I	O	S	T	A	T	R	E	B	L	A	A	T	I	A	A	L
M	T	C	O	I	A	S	A	O	I	D	A	H	O	S	D	A	O	F	L
U	A	H	T	K	K	R	P	A	I	N	A	V	L	Y	S	N	N	E	P
L	C	I	S	A	I	X	C	L	O	S	E	E	V	I	R	D	U	A	L
S	R	A	N	O	E	V	I	S	A	T	O	K	A	D	H	T	R	O	N
B	S	N	N	E	W	H	A	M	P	S	H	I	R	E	C	C	O	S	B

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Snaps

By NY Post staff

BIG SHOT

SUMMER ALE
IPA
ULTRA
upreme

Kylie Jenner plays bartender and starts pouring drinks while in NYC for the Knicks parade.

kyliejenner/Instagram

CHANGE OF PACE

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines
NORTE VS SUR
1528
BM
SKECHERS
KLM
MADRID

Amber Heard catches a runner's high after completing her first 10K race in Madrid last week.

amberheard/Instagram

COUPLE GOALS

"Real Housewife" **Melissa Gorga** and husband **Joe** watch a World Cup game at MetLife Stadium.

Getty Images for Casamigos

WEB OF LOVE

"Spider-Man" star **Tom Holland** is bugging out over his co-star and wife, **Zendaya**.

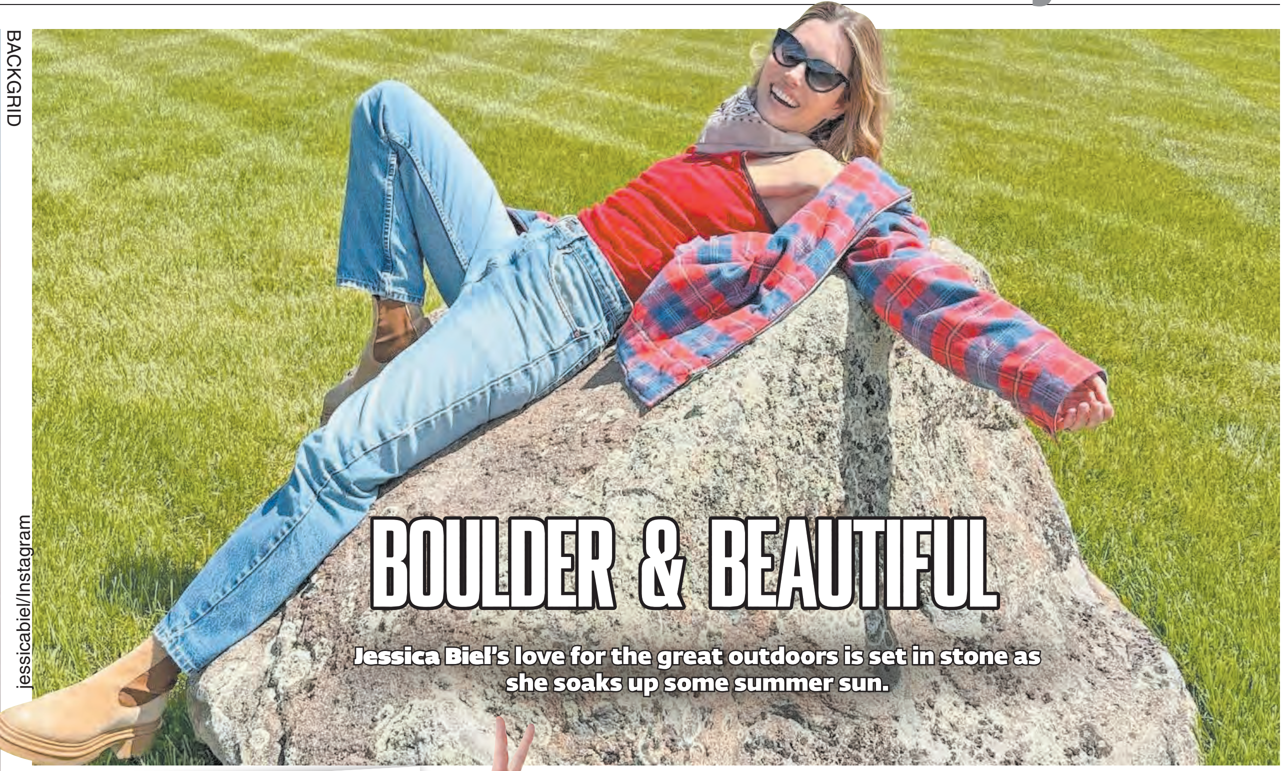
zendaya/Instagram

UP TO SPEEDO

Hairstylist Chris Appleton is ripped and ready to take over the beach in Positano, Italy.

BACKGRID

BOULDER & BEAUTIFUL



Jessica Biel's love for the great outdoors is set in stone as she soaks up some summer sun.

jessicabiel/Instagram

THE KNEEL DEAL

"SNL" alum **Molly Shannon** does the "Superstar" pose while getting her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Chelsea Lauren/Shutterstock

GET TO DA POPPA

Katherine Schwarzenegger shares a Father's Day post of her dad, **Arnold Schwarzenegger** (left), and hubby **Chris Pratt.**

katherineschwarzenegger/Instagram

Snaps

SHORT BUTT SWEET

Simone Biles takes paradise very seriously, as the Olympic gymnastics icon wraps up a trip to Belize.

simonebiles/Instagram

UP IN ARMS

Hannah Waddingham revs up the photo call of her Amazon show, "Ride or Die," in London's Trafalgar Square.

Dave Benett/WireImage

IN A STUN PIECE

"Baywatch" babe **Brooks Nader** is ready for any weather LA has to offer with her swimsuit-Ugg boot combo.

SPOT / BACKGRID

LAUNDRY DAY

Charli xcx teases her Instagram fans that her next project is a chore thing.

charlixcx/Instagram

PAR-TEA TIME!

Joe Jonas sips some matcha while enjoying his brunch outdoors.

joejonas/Instagram

POOCHY COOCHY COO

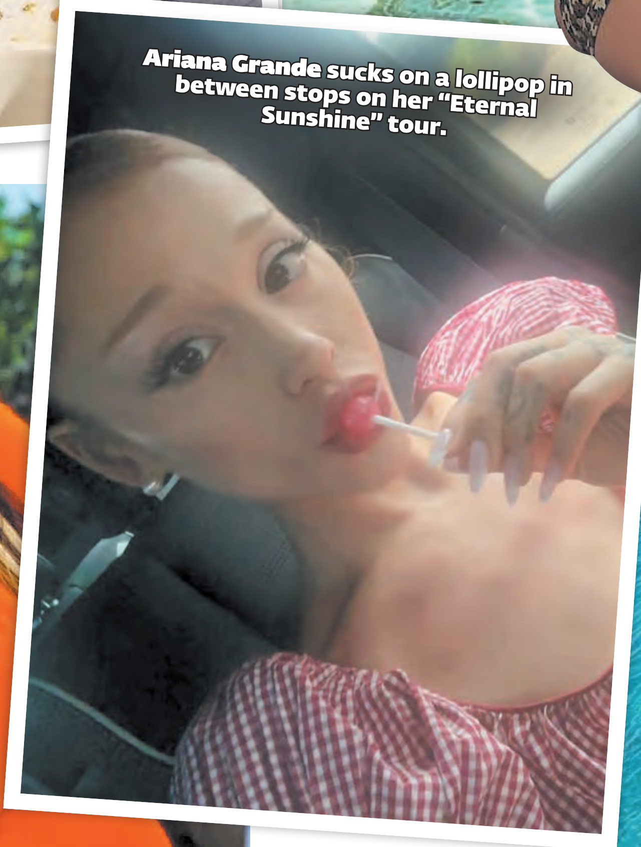
Ana de Armas and her dog, Elvis, enjoy a chill day at the pool.

ana_d_armas/Instagram

FEELING FANTA'STIC

Bella Thorne is a tangerine dream as she celebrates Pride Month.

bellathorne/Instagram



Ariana Grande sucks on a lollipop in between stops on her “Eternal Sunshine” tour.

arianagrande/Instagram

SUCKER FOR YOU

ddlovato/Instagram

LOV' BOAT

Demi Lovato has yachts of love for her hubby, Canadian musician Jutes, in Ibiza, Spain.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS

LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9 a.m., ABC

Monday: Michelle Buteau, Mr, Fantasy

Tuesday: Nina Dobrev, Billy Eichner

Wednesday: Law Roach (above), Caroline Rhea

LATE NIGHT WITH SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m., NBC

Monday: Adam Scott, Juliette Lewis

Tuesday: Pedro Pascal (above), Billy Eichner

Wednesday: Nick Kroll, Isa Briones

CBS MORNINGS

7 a.m., CBS

Monday: Olivia Wilde (above), Ed Norton

Tuesday: Brandon Lake, Jill Schlesinger

Wednesday: Sophia Bush and Jerry O'Connell

Sunday June 28, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Marshals: Road to Nowhere (R)		Tracker: No Good Deed (R)		Marshals: The Gathering Storm (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Cross-roads of t
4 WNBC	4	4	4	PGA Tour Golf Live.	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox from Fenway Park. Live.						Password: The Miz & Jimmy Fallon (R)		News 4 New York at 11	News
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(5:30) NHRA Drag Racing: NHRA Nationals: from Summit Motorsports Park in Norwalk, Ohio. Taped.					The Quiz with Balls: Marines vs Air Force (R)		The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth: Barry Diller	Raw Travel (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Home Videos (R)	(7:32) Armageddon (1997, Action): Man encounters supernatural forces while saving mankind from evil villain. Andy Lau, Michelle Reis. NR ★★							Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Paid Program	Paid Program	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Enough Is Enough		Suits: Respect	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	WWE NXT: WWE NXT: The Great American Bash 2026: from WWE Performance Center in Orlando, Fla.. Live.						PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		New York Nightcap	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	Life Unearthed	Beyond Paradise: Christmas 2023		Patience: The Magpie		Grantchester		Downton Abbey: Part Three		Murder in the Mountains: Break It Up (R)	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Orbison	Luther Vandross: Live at Wembley			Ken Burns: One Nation, Many Stories				Daniel Amen, Md		
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Aktina TV	Buzz (2009)	Profiles	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Nightmare Theatre			
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Cabin Fever		NCIS: Blast from the Past		NCIS: The Artful Dodger		NCIS: Status Update		NCIS: Patience	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	La rosa de Guadalupe		Garra vs Veneno: Guerreros Mundiales				Complices		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Avatar (2009, Ciencia ficción) Sam Worthington. PG-13 ★★★½						Noticias Telemundo		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning (R)			Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE LFG: Too Strong		WWE: Great	WWE: Great
AMC	54	43	231	Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014, Action) Chris Evans.					The Vampire Lestat		The Vampire Lestat: Devil's Road			Man Fire R
BBCAM	71	101	189	Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks.			Apollo 13 (1995, Drama) Tom Hanks. PG ★★★½						The Patriot (2000) R ★★½	
BET	37	54	270	Image	Image	Image	BET Awards 2026						(11:04) BET Awards 2026	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives Atlanta		Rhode Island		Watch What	(10:45) Real Housewives of Atlanta (R)		
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		CNN Newsroom		This Land: Lone Border		To Be Announced		This Land: Empire Island	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	BET Awards 2026						South Park	South Park
DISC	66	27	120	Naked &	Naked & Afraid: Global		Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown: Lock In or				(10:01) Eye of Storm		(11:03) Eye of Storm (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Tokyo	Big Hero 6 (2014, Action) Ryan Potter.			Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Vampirina	Wizards	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	She's the Man (2006) ★★½		He's Just Not That Into You (2009, Comedy) Ben Affleck. PG-13 ★★½					She's the Man (2006, Drama) Amanda Bynes. ★★½			
ESPN	28	36	70	Countdown	WNBA Basketball Live.				X Games Sacramento 2026: from Cal Expo in Sacramento, Calif.. Live.					
ESPN2	29	35	74	Where It L	ESPN Films			World Surf		Banana Ball: Bananas vs. Party Animals Replay.				30 for 30
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		One Nation		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	100 Cooks		100 Cooks		100 Cooks: 32 Cooks		Chopped Castaways	
FREE	38	49	199	Mulan (1998, Family) Ming-Na Wen. G			Beauty and the Beast (1991, Fantasy) Paige O'Hara.				The Little Mermaid (1989, Fantasy) Jodi Benson. ★★★			
FS1	400	99	83	(6:00) 2026 FIFA World Cup			2026 FIFA World Cup				2026 FIFA World Cup			
FX	10	40	53	(5:00) Pirates of the Caribbean (2011)			Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (2017, Action) Johnny Depp.						This Means War (2012)	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Castle of Our Own (2026)			Christmas Island (2023, Holiday) Rachel Skarsten.				Jingle Bell Run (2024, Holiday) Ashley Williams.			
HGTV	64	98	165	Home Town	Home Town		Renovation Island		Old Home Revival		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Hazardous	Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History		(10:03) Food Built		(11:05) Food Built (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Nightmare	Your Worst Nightmare		Bodies in the Water		Surviving a Serial Killer		Case Paula Zahn		Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) Single Black Tenant (2026)			Get Off My Lawn (2025)				(10:03) Don't Trust the Girls Upstairs (2026, Thriller)			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collectors	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Family	Family
MSG	27	87	78	MSG Summer	MSG Summer	Team Boxing League: Houston Hitmen at LA Elite Replay.					Team Boxing: Phoenix Fury at Las Vegas Hustle			
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(12:00) FanDuel Racing					PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes		PokerGo High Stakes	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		The Briefing with Jen		Crooked on MS NOW		The Weekend (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	(5:30) 21 Jump Street (2012, Comedy) R			BET Awards 2026						Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	BET Awards 2026						Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	48 Hours:	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
PARMT	36	56	54	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue (R)		BET Awards 2026						(11:04) Bar Rescue (R)	
SNY	26	60	77	Specials	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2402				Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:00) Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009)				Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010, Adventure) Daniel Radcliffe.						Hallows 2
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Spaceballs (1987, Comedy) ★★★			Blazing Saddles (1974, Comedy) Cleavon Little. ★★★½				Young Frankenstein (1974, Comedy) Gene Wilder. PG			
TLC	52	28	139	(6:00) 90 Day Fiancé: The Ball and			90 Day Fiancé: Love Is a Work in Progress (R)				(10:03) 90 Day Diaries		(11:03) Little Singles (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	NASCAR Na.	Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (2024) Michael Keaton. PG-13				(9:15) Man of Steel (2013, Action) Henry Cavill, Amy Adams. PG-13 ★½					
TVLAND	85	34	241	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	BET Awards 2026						Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	TBA	TBA	TBA	BET Awards 2026							Burger ★★½
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: Epilogue		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: Hope		Criminal Minds: Prophecy	
YES	53	89	76	My Number	My Number	Home Plate		Home Plate	Homegrown	Yankees	Postgame	Behind NY	Homegrown	Sportico
HBO	511	301	400	(6:10) Undertone (2026) R		House of the Dragon: Salt and Sea (R)			House of the Dragon		(10:08) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:15) Last Week	
MAX	531	371	420	(6:29) Contagion (2011, Action) ★★½			(8:16) X-Men: First Class (2011, Action) James McAvoy. PG-13 ★★★					(10:28) It (2017, Horror) Bill Skarsgård. R		
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:45) The Running Man (2025, Action) Glen Powell, Josh Brolin.					From: If A Tree Falls		From: If A Tree Falls		Silence of the Lambs R	
PARSHO	551	321	365	Faster (2010, Action) Dwayne Johnson.			The Chi: Dead of Winter		The Chi	(9:50) Get Rich or Die Tryin' (2005, Drama) 50 Cent. R				The Chi

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TALKING THE TOK

'Million Dollar Nannies' stars on whether they'd do a 'Mormon Wives' crossover

Freeform's 'Million Dollars Nannies' follows a group of nannies (right) who jet off to Ibiza to launch a nanny agency.

Disney

1 MILLION DOLLAR NANNIES

Season 1 is streaming now on Hulu

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

Hulu's latest masterpiece, **"Million Dollar Nannies,"** is bringing attention to NannyTok, a group of young nannies who travel to Ibiza for the summer to launch their new agency for the top 1%. Founder Leah Barrs, who famously worked for Kourtney Kardashian, along with nannies Sydney Siegel, Tamaya Denae, and Jack McCann recently stopped by DECIDER's studio to unpack the show's debut season — though the conversation took an awkward turn when unresolved tensions from their time in Spain resurfaced. To recap, Barrs got fired from her job with the Guiribitey family (otherwise known as "The G's") after they found out she had once slept with the father of one of the kids she was babysitting. While the dad was single and a longtime friend of Barrs, The G's took the matter very seriously, vowing never to recommend Barrs or her agency. However, they did invite Siegel to watch their kids as they attended Paris Fashion Week, and later offered her a full-time job, which she accepted.

"I think it was hard because Leah and I obviously went into this past summer being best friends," Siegel told DECIDER. "It wasn't necessarily that I was going against our friendship. I was doing what was best for me at the moment, knowing that I had to make the money I had to make." A tense vibe came over the room as Barrs shared that they had only recently learned that Siegel took on the full-time job, explaining that she needed more "time" to process her friend's betrayal.

DECIDER: I want to start with a little bit of an icebreaker with you guys. What is the most insane rule you've ever been given as a nanny?

LEAH BARRS: I think mine was on the show. The text every 20 minutes. I think that's a little excessive for me. I'm like, "How many updates can I really give you?"

SYDNEY SIEGEL: I think for me, it was probably taking one picture with a Polaroid. We only had one chance to take a picture, and I failed every single time. It was so weird. I was like, "Really?

LEAH: [We took a Polaroid] of their designer outfits. Every day.

SYDNEY: No, it was crazy.

JACK MCCANN: I had to wear all white scrubs. I looked like a nurse. That was crazy. I've never had a dress code as a nanny. Usually we can wear athleisure or whatever, but we looked like nurses walking around Ibiza.

TAMAYA DENAE: I don't know if this is insane, but I nannied for a major almond mom at one point, and it was so hard to feed the child. She's like, "No Cheez-Its," for one. That's kind of crazy. At playdates, the kid would have Cheez-Its, and [she'd] be like "Don't give that to him."

JACK: Depriving that child.

TAMAYA: There were many things he could not eat, like certain soups. If you want something quick, no quesadillas, no cheese. It was like nut cheeses. It was weird. But that was hard, not being able to feed the kid easy stuff. I was cheffing it up every single day. That didn't last long.

First there was MomTok. Now there's NannyTok. After everybody watches the show, which Tok do you think will reign supreme?

JACK: I feel like NannyTok has been around. I think there are a lot of nannies active on NannyTok that don't even know the show exists. I think some of the ones that I've found out about this show have a lot to say. They have a lot of assumptions before even seeing anything. They assumed we are just influencers-turned-nannies. We were all career nannies before the show. I think MomTok's pretty broad. I think Momtok kind of spans a greater audience. I feel like NannyTok is a specific career.

I do feel like there's potential for a crossover there. Would you guys ever want a nanny for the Mormon Wives?

TAMAYA: Yeah.

JACK: We met some of them. The ones I met were really nice.

2 2026 BET AWARDS

Sunday 8 p.m., BET

Hosted by **Druski** (right) live from the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles, this year's awards show will also feature performances from artists like Doechii, Cardi B, and Kehlani.

3 ELLE

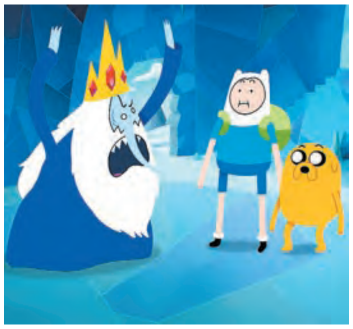
Wednesday, Prime Video

Up for a bend and snap, anyone? This new **"Legally Blonde"** prequel series follows young Elle Woods (played by **Lexi Minetree**, above) as her and her family move from Los Angeles to Seattle.

4 SILO

Friday, Apple TV

Starring and executive produced by **Rebecca Ferguson** (left), the sci-fi drama based on Hugh Howey's book trilogy is back for Season 3.



5 ADVENTURE TIME: SIDE QUESTS

Monday, Disney+/Hulu

A new spinoff series of the hit animated franchise continues to follow Finn the Human and his magical dog, Jake.

6 CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Wednesday, Hallmark+

The holly-jolly docuseries returns for a second season, chronicling the Hallmark Christmas Cruise and the network stars aboard the ship.

7 MACY'S 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Saturday 8 p.m., NBC and Peacock

This Fourth of July not only marks America's 250th anniversary, but also the 50th Macy's 4th of July Fireworks special.

8 SURVIVAL OF THE THICKEST

Thursday, Netflix

Michelle Buteau's (far right) comedy based on her book of essays of the same name returns for its third and final season.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ **CANCER**
(June 22-July 23)
Make use of Jupiter's last two days in your sign to complete something that has the potential to make you money, and maybe even make you famous. The message of the stars now is that you need to make your talents pay.

♌ **LEO**
(July 24-Aug. 23)
Your enthusiasm for something you have been working on for weeks, maybe even months, will slip a bit today but it's no big deal. In fact, you could probably do with leaving it alone for a while and rest both your mind and your body.

♍ **VIRGO**
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)
Don't let a minor setback knock you off your stride. You are still far ahead of where you thought you would be at this stage of the game so you can afford to lose a little ground. You will more than make up for it later on.

♎ **LIBRA**
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)
Just because a friend or family member has a negative outlook on life does not mean you must be negative too. The world is a marvelous place and the events of the next few days will have you smiling. Hopefully others will smile with you.

♏ **SCORPIO**
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
Your run of good luck is set to continue, especially on the work front, where your star will be higher in the sky than all of your rivals. Act as if the universe wants to give you every good thing it can think of — because it does!

♐ **SAGITTARIUS**
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)
You may not like admitting that you were wrong about something, but you have no choice. If you carry on pretending you cannot see your error then your reputation will take a dive. Everyone makes mistakes — yes, even a Sag!

♑ **CAPRICORN**
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)
It may seem as if a loved one is being obstructive for no good reason but in fact they have a very good motive for holding you back. Most likely they can see pitfalls that you are blind to because of your excessive self-confidence.

♒ **AQUARIUS**
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You have pushed yourself so hard of late that you not only deserve a break but most likely need one for the sake of your well-being. Forget about your chores and duties over the next few days and let life do the hard work for you.

♓ **PISCES**
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)
Something that looks simple today could look amazingly complicated tomorrow, but don't make too big a deal of it. Most likely it's just the full moon playing games with your mind, and later in the week it will look simple again.

♈ **ARIES**
(March 21-April 20)
The Capricorn full moon could make you a bit snappy with some of your colleagues, which is unlikely to win them over to your cause. Keep telling yourself that while they may be slow and stupid they are at least well-meaning.

♉ **TAURUS**
(April 21-May 21)
Travel and social activities are going well for you now, but the full moon could make things tricky by forcing you to change your plans at the last moment. Stay calm and don't get frustrated, because this is only a short-term phase.

♊ **GEMINI**
(May 22-June 21)
A relationship that has seemed a bit bumpy of late will smooth itself out over the next few days, so be patient and accept that some things cannot be rushed. Part of your problem is that you want everything to be perfect all of the time!

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

A Mars-Jupiter link on your birthday will inspire you to get your act together and make every moment of every day count. You don't have to run yourself into the ground, but you do have to use your time and your energy more productively.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

N	O	R	I	■	R	E	M	S	■	■	P	O	L	Y	P	■	F	E	T	A
E	V	E	N	■	E	G	O	T	■	V	E	N	E	E	R	■	A	V	I	D
R	E	C	S	■	S	O	D	A	■	A	T	E	A	S	E	■	K	I	L	O
D	R	O	P	■	T	I	E	R	■	N	A	A	N	■	S	M	E	L	L	S
■	■	R	O	L	O	S	■	Q	U	I	L	L	■	P	S	A	T	■	■	■
T	B	D	■	A	R	M	C	U	R	L	■	■	■	A	T	L	A	N	T	A
A	R	C	A	N	E	■	M	A	L	L	E	T	■	S	H	I	N	E	R	S
B	I	O	M	E	■	F	O	R	■	A	V	I	A	T	E	■	S	W	A	T
S	O	L	O	■	P	I	N	T	A	■	I	M	P	A	I	R	■	S	S	R
■	■	L	E	D	O	N	■	E	L	U	D	E	S	■	S	A	P	P	H	O
■	D	E	B	A	S	E	■	R	A	K	E	S	■	A	S	T	R	A	Y	■
W	E	C	A	N	T	■	A	B	S	E	N	T	■	C	U	E	U	P	■	■
O	N	T	■	A	M	T	R	A	K	■	T	A	S	T	E	■	N	E	S	T
L	A	I	D	■	O	R	E	C	A	R	■	B	U	S	■	A	E	R	I	E
F	L	O	R	I	D	A	■	K	N	E	E	L	S	■	M	U	S	C	L	E
S	I	N	E	W	E	D	■	■	■	A	P	E	S	U	I	T	■	O	K	S
■	■	■	W	I	R	E	■	B	A	S	I	C	■	P	R	O	W	L	■	■
J	O	H	A	N	N	■	A	R	L	O	■	H	A	H	A	■	H	U	N	K
A	V	O	W	■	I	N	V	A	I	N	■	A	G	O	G	■	O	M	E	N
M	A	R	A	■	S	I	E	V	E	S	■	R	U	L	E	■	O	N	T	O
S	L	A	Y	■	M	A	R	E	N	■	■	T	A	D	S	■	P	S	S	T

Su Doku

1	9	6	2	4	3	5	8	7
7	5	4	1	9	8	6	3	2
2	3	8	5	7	6	4	9	1
8	7	2	4	5	1	3	6	9
5	4	3	7	6	9	1	2	8
6	1	9	8	3	2	7	5	4
3	8	1	6	2	4	9	7	5
4	6	7	9	8	5	2	1	3
9	2	5	3	1	7	8	4	6

Very Easy #7,323

5	1	6	2	8	7	3	9	4
9	8	7	3	4	5	1	2	6
2	4	3	6	1	9	5	8	7
3	9	4	1	7	8	6	5	2
7	6	5	4	2	3	9	1	8
1	2	8	5	9	6	7	4	3
4	5	9	7	3	2	8	6	1
6	7	2	8	5	1	4	3	9
8	3	1	9	6	4	2	7	5

Difficult #7,113

1	4	7	2	5	3	9	8	6
2	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	5
5	8	3	9	1	6	2	7	4
4	7	5	8	2	1	6	9	3
8	9	1	3	6	5	4	2	7
3	2	6	7	9	4	8	5	1
7	1	2	6	4	8	5	3	9
9	5	4	1	3	2	7	6	8
6	3	8	5	7	9	1	4	2

Challenging #561

Super Su Doku

2	5	1	4	9	12	6	10	11	8	3	7
7	6	8	10	1	11	4	3	12	9	5	2
9	12	11	3	5	2	7	8	1	4	10	6
3	11	9	6	7	4	1	5	10	2	8	12
10	7	4	1	2	8	11	12	5	3	6	9
5	2	12	8	6	3	10	9	4	11	7	1
1	10	3	12	8	5	9	4	6	7	2	11
11	9	5	2	10	6	3	7	8	12	1	4
4	8	6	7	11	1	12	2	3	10	9	5
6	3	7	9	4	10	5	11	2	1	12	8
8	4	10	5	12	9	2	1	7	6	11	3
12	1	2	11	3	7	8	6	9	5	4	10

Kakuro

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	1	2	■	■	1	3	2	5	■
■	4	9	8	■	2	1	4	6	8
■	■	■	5	1	■	■	1	2	6
■	9	8	■	5	6	2	3	1	4
■	6	1	■	7	8	9	■	8	7
■	5	3	7	8	9	6	■	7	9
■	8	7	9	■	■	7	4	■	■
■	4	2	5	1	3	■	1	4	2
■	■	4	8	2	1	■	■	9	4

Kakuro #561

KEN KEN

60× 5	4	3÷ 3	1	4− 6	2
5− 1	3	8× 4	7+ 5	2	6 6
6	5 5	1	2	12+ 4	3
1− 4	3+ 1	2	2÷ 6	3	5
3	3÷ 2	6	1− 4	6+ 5	1
2 2	11+ 6	5	3	3− 1	4

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Wonderword answer: CONTIGUOUS

Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Benched 6A-Auditor 8A-Used 9A-Afar 11A-Sardine 12A-Prodigy 2D-Endless 3D-Cute 4D-January 5D-Pierced 7D-Rafting 10D-Grid B-Jerry Seinfeld

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

BISON, OTTER, MOOSE, MOUSE, HORSE, ZEBRA, HYENA, LEMUR

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

F_4	O_1	R_1	G_2	A_1	V_4	E_1	RACK 1 =	65
C_3	O_1	L_1	L_1	O_1	I_1	D_2	RACK 2 =	60
B_3	R_1	O_1	W_4	N_1	I_1	E_1	RACK 3 =	62
A_1	B_3	O_1	L_1	I_1	S_1	H_4	RACK 4 =	62
K_5	E_1	Y_4	N_1	O_1	T_1	E_1	RACK 5 =	92

PAR SCORE 260-270 TOTAL 341

Sunday Word Force

apron
apter
atone
oaten
opera
orate
otter
prate
prone
repot
taper
tarot
tenor
toner
toper
torte
treat
trope

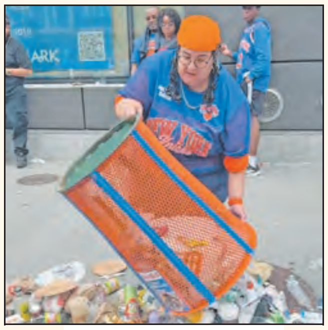
THE WEEK'S WINNERS

SERGEY BRIN
Google co-founder and other tycoons score a huge win as a billionaire tax-killing measure heads to the California ballot.

U.S. DRIVERS
Average gas prices, which receded to $3.93 a gallon, sank for the sixth consecutive week and are down 14% from their peak in May.

WENDY'S
A Reddit post urging meme-stock traders to "save Wendy's before it's too late" sent shares of the struggling fast-food chain up more than 40%.

LOSERS



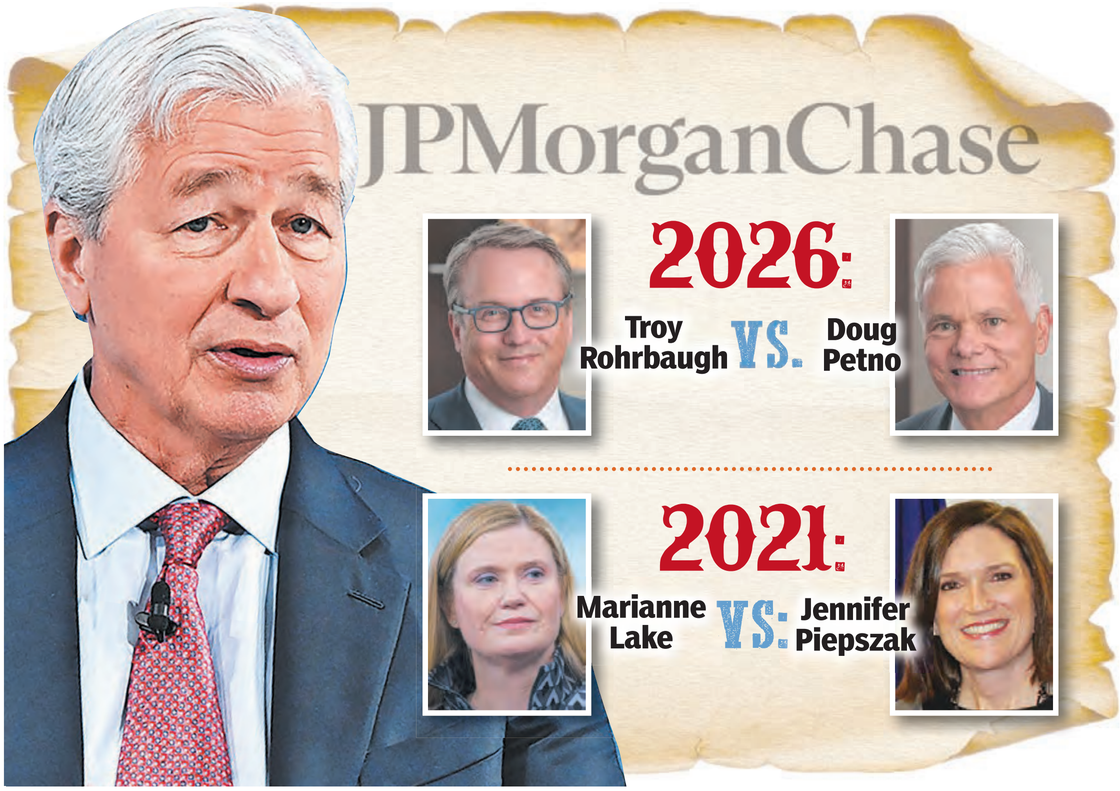
ANGIE BÁEZ
DEI exec at JPMorgan is fired after being caught on video emptying a public trash can on the street and then stealing it during the Knicks parade.

SAM ALTMAN
ChatGPT gives lefty answers 80% of the time, a study finds. Also, OpenAI boss is reportedly mulling delaying its IPO until 2027.

VOLKSWAGEN
Auto giant slashing up to 100,000 jobs and halting production at four German plants in a cost-cutting drive.

JPMAYBE...OR NOT

Jamie succession race won't hinge on DEI



Getty Images

Perennially "soon to retire" JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon is again staging a "succession" bake-off between two top lieutenants — like he did five years ago when neither aspirant "succeeded."

CHARLES GASPARINO

LAST week, JPMorgan Chase startled Wall Street with an abrupt disclosure that two of its senior bankers — Troy Rohrbaugh and Doug Petno — had been named co-presidents, setting up what looks like a definitive horse race to replace 70-year-old Jamie Dimon.

The announcement is indicative of interesting developments inside the House of Dimon even if there's nothing definitive about this bake-off.

First, despite Dimon's embrace of constructs like DEI over the years, the place is at bottom a meritocracy.

The spinout of JPM is that Rohrbaugh and Petno were chosen after a long and deliberate board decision. That left no room for Marianne Lake, the perceived front-runner for Dimon's job and one of the highest ranking women on Wall Street.

She had been running a unit — consumer and community banking — nearly as big and complex as the other guys'. Rohrbaugh took her slot. Thursday, 56-year-old Lake "retired," declining to supply a comment for the press release that announced the big reshuffle.

Based on my reporting, it hasn't gone unnoticed inside the top echelons of JPM that two white dudes were chosen to succeed Dimon over a glass-ceiling-busting woman. Dimon was once fixated on constructs like Diversity Equity and Inclusion, so much so that his bank kept touting its benefits well after the Trump administration and the Supreme Court began reminding big companies that doling out jobs based on race or gender is unconstitutional.

But the year is 2026 and times are a-changing. Lake wasn't happy with last week's reshuffle, I am told, and I can understand why: She is a good executive, well-liked and smart. The DEI-obsessed business media anointed her as Dimon's successor, but it was her performance that earned her a place at the top of JPM — though maybe not at the very top.

Dimon and his board are getting the message that the country has moved well past the time when race and gender should matter more than your record of achievement.

Still, the future of JPM remains murky — and don't be surprised if a woman eventually makes it to the top of the bank. The spin is that Rohrbaugh and Petno are the heir apparents to Dimon, who is expected to relinquish the CEO spot in about three years and remain as executive chairman of the bank for years after that.

Solid records

To be sure, Rohrbaugh's and Petno's records have been solid. You don't read much lately about big trading losses or scandals, and JPM always seems to be in the middle of the most high-profile IPOs (see SpaceX). What is needed is competence, and by all accounts both Rohrbaugh, a former options trader, and Petno, an investment banker by training, have that in spades.

But somehow, I can't see either of them being the second coming of Dimon, one of corporate America's most voluble leaders. That Rohrbaugh and Petno could conceivably be running the nation's largest bank — taking over for a CEO who defined American finance for decades — is a little shocking. They are not exactly household names, as Dimon was even when he worked with Sandy Weill creating Citigroup long before becoming Chase CEO in 2006. That alone is enough to make me and others who follow this stuff entertain some doubts about whether either of them actually will.

Also, I've seen this act before. There have been too many would-be successors to Dimon to count, only to see them ushered out of JPM's Midtown HQ when Dimon grew tired of their quirks and questioned their abilities.

It was an especially weird case of déjà vu for those of us who were around in 2021, recalling how Dimon had staged a strikingly similar race — only that time with two top female bankers, Jennifer Piepszak and Lake.

Piepszak took herself out of the race early last year, saying she didn't want the top job.

So what does last week's decidedly odd news add up to? From my perspective, things could get even weirder — that is to say, there's a better-than-even chance Dimon and JPMorgan's board will ditch these two dudes for yet somebody else to lead the bank. There's also a chance that somebody could turn out to be a woman.

I also couldn't help but notice that in last week's management shakeup, Mary Erdoes, the long-time head of the JPM asset and wealth management division, is sticking around. So is Piepszak, Dimon's chief operating officer. Both of them received $20 million so-called retention awards.

Erdoes, it was noted to me, operates one of the most important and public-facing businesses in the company; she brings a degree of Dimonesque swagger to the job.

She's had some miscues. She didn't cut off ties with Jeffrey Epstein fast enough, some critics say, although she wasn't alone in that regard. But Dimon knows talent. That's why he's paying big bucks to keep both her and Piepszak onboard — and possibly to reopen the race to succeed him.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL

NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (New York, NY) seeks Senior Director to lead a team that manages & develops analytics/measurements to inform & evaluate operational strategy, priorities & programs for ambulatory care delivery. Engage in public health & regulatory activities concerning primary care program management. Salary: $186,056. Full job desc. & apply at https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/careers/.

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4th of July Early Deadlines for Classified

Publication Date	Ad Deadline
Fri. July 3rd - Mon. July 6th	Thurs. July 2 11:30AM

We will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, 2026

Enjoy Your Holiday!

NEW YORK POST

ENGINEERING

Structural Engineer –NYC based Engineering Group Associates P.C. seeks candidate with Master degree in Civil Engineering or Construction Management or related, visit worksites within NYC biweekly. Email: office@egroupassociates.com

FINANCIAL

Senior Audit Associate (Job ID# SAA0512) sought by WWC, P.C. in NY, NY (offd wage: $146,058/yr): Dsgn & execute audit procedures based on the client's bus., the risks it faces, & its internal control processes; Interact w/ clients directly to discuss field audit issues; Collab w/ a diverse group of talented audit prof'ls; Perform audit procedures rltd to clients' fin'l stmts; Supv assigned staff in executing the audit approach & perform a first level review of staff assigned work; Research acctg & auditing matters & document conclusions; Leverage data analytics, data visualizations; Provide excellent timely client service, deliver high qlty work & strengthen client relationships. Reqmt: Master's Deg in Acctg, Finance, or closely rltd field; 1 yr of exp as an Accountant, Auditor, or in a rltd role; Eligible for CPA exam for licensure; proficiency in advanced Excel skills, incl lookup functions (VLOOKUP, HLOOKUP), pivot tables, & data validation; 2 to 3 domestic trips & 2 to 3 int'l trips annually, w/ each trip lasting approximately one week. Apply, mail CV w/ Job ID# to Patrick, 2010 Pioneer Court, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Biller (NY, NY) Verify accuracy of billing data, revise if necessary. Prep itemized stmts, bills, & invoices. Perform bookkeeping work. Answer inquiries regarding rates, delivery times, or work scheds. HS dip. reqd. $52k/yr. Mail resume: CNR Group ECS LLC, 236 W 30th St, NY, NY 10001.

Admin. Coordinator. Brooklyn, NY Coordinate office services: records, invoices, fin statements, budget, payroll & personnel data. F/T, 40 hrs/wk, M-F. H/S, 2yrs exp. Email res to shifrinhome@gmail.com. Dr. Shifrin, OB/GYN PC

FINANCIAL

Accountant. Brooklyn, NY Examine/analyze records, supporting docs, transactions; verify statements. F/T, M-F, 2 yrs exp. B/S Accounting, Finance, Management. Email res Total Care Radiology: info.astra4209@gmail.com

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Music Curriculum Coordinator: Develop the music curricula, select textbooks & other materials, train teachers, & assess the educational programs for quality & adherence to regulations & standards; Mster's of music or reltd field reqd; Resume to Hansung Presbyterian Church in New York, 3556 159th St, Flushing, NY 11358

Cost Estimator, Project Administrator, Yonkers, NY. HS Diploma +2yrs. exp. req. Salary $58,843 yr. Email resume to: besianlleshi@gmail.com United Contracting & Design Corp.

HEALTHCARE

Exercise Physiologist: Brooklyn City Rehabilitation PT PC in Jamaica, NY. Req'd: Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy, physical therapy or health-related. $58,594/salary. Resume to: Brooklyn City Rehabilitation PT PC, 2611 West 2nd St, 2L, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Reference #: 365391.

PROFESSIONAL

Marketing Specialist at High Level Care PT PC (Richmond Hill, NY). Dvlp mktg campaigns for healthcare svcs & prods. Conduct research & analyses to ID trends, target audiences & growth in healthcare mkts. Dvlp data collection methods. Analyze & forecast mktg performance, prep reports & rec imprvmts. Dvlp mktg for healthcare prof'ls, consumers, pts & institutional clients. Coord w/ teams for compliance w/ healthcare regs. Manage digital mktg initiatives. Biz dev via lead gen, presentations & outreach. Supv mktg assts, interns or contractors. Reqs: Bachelor's in Mktg, Comms, PM, Bus Mgmt or rel. field; 12 mos exp as Mktg Specialist/Mgr. Salary: $82,139-$100,000/yr. Apply: Send CV to 107-04 Jamaica Ave, Richmond Hill, NY 11418.

Staff Data Analyst. Produce user intelligence by querying data repositories & generating periodic reports with practical business insights. Req. Bach. in Data Analytics, Statistics, Applied Economics, Bus. Analytics, or rel. field, or foreign equiv. Jobsite: New York, NY. Wage range: $185,000 /yr to $256,850/yr. Send resume ref#24147 to K. Finnsson, Activision Blizzard Media LLC, 555 California St, Ste. 200, San Francisco, CA 94104.

Child, Family, & School Social Worker. NYC. Provide counseling using behavioral therapy modalities; develop treatment plans; record progress notes in Electronic Health Record. Req'd: MS Social Work or related; licensed social worker; knowledge of clinical case evaluation; trauma and its impact; adv. clinical practice; US multicultural perspectives. M-F, 9-5. Salary: $66,560/yr. Send resume to Job #9, Community Assistance Resources & Extended Services, Inc.,465 Grand St., 2nd Fl., NY, NY10002

PROFESSIONAL

Managing Director of Data and Strategic Analytics needed in Long Island City, NY to lead Performance Measurement & Research for outreach prgms; be an internal expert on place-based efforts to advance economic opportunity & neighborhood-level change; lead strategy for data-driven decision-making; identify measurable goals, evaluate adherence to & efficacy of Theory of Change; provide briefings & reports on Prgm data, analysis, findings, & support stakeholders to operationalize; act as liaison for data driven projects; work on NYCKR's Research Agenda, & support launching & managing an advisory body. Salary: $107,162 to $196,000/yr; telecommuting permitted. Must have a Master's Deg in public policy, urban policy, or rltd, 3 yrs in an urban planning role for a govt agency or nonprofit community outreach organization, & 2 yrs using R & R-studio & ArcGIS PRO & QGis & engaging in data driven decision making for urban dvlpmt projects. Email CVs to NYC Kids RISE at abourgeois@nyckidsrise.org.

Business Manager (NY, NY) Dvlp & implmt long-term bus. strategies to expand & sustain the U.S. oper'ns under the Sushi of Gari brand. Oversee daily oper'ns across multiple restaurant locs, ensuring exceptional food qlty, service stds, & regulatory compliance. Supv & support restaurant managers & sr. staff, setting performance goals & guiding prof'l dvlpmt. Direct budgeting, fin'l reporting, payroll mgmt, vendor negotiations, & contract review alignment w/ corporate objectives. Manage company-wide compliance, insurance, & employment matters, ensuring adherence to all legal reqmts. Coord w/ corporate leadership in Japan regarding staffing, reporting, growth planning, & investment projects. Represent the U.S. oper'ns in executive, fin'l, & community matters, while analyzing mkt & operational trends to drive innovation & growth. Bachelor's deg in Bus. admin, mgmt, legal studies or a rltd field. 2 yr. exp in the job or as regional mgr reqd. 40 hrs/wk, $150,000/yr. Send Resume to Mr. Masataka Horikawa, PRESIDENT, HLD GARI LLC., D/B/A Sushi of Gari at h.masataka@horikawasangyo.co.jp

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Business Management Analyst (Job Site: New York, NY), R. SAASTO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Salary: $75k/yr. B.A. req'd. Send resume to 450 Seventh Ave. #1805, New York, NY 10123

Big Data Engineer - NGDATA US INC, New York, NY. Sal:: $167,835/yr. Req: Mstr's in Information Systems or equiv. + 48 mos. exp. as Data Engr., Data Analyst, Software Engr., Business Intelligence Engr., or Business Analyst. Send resume to: admin@ngdata.com

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Green Rock NY Inc in New York seeks 1 Digital Marketing Specialist Bcl in Marketing/Commerce/rltd major + 12 Months digital marketing exp in jewelry industry req: F/T,M-F, 9am-5pm, Send CV to greenrok4@gmail.com. Ref#DMS241

Esusu, Inc. (New York, NY) seeks Data Analyst to build impact reports, advanced data insights & models; conduct data analytics; enhance data visualization techniques; maintain robust data quality control measures; provide code documentation. Fully remote. Sal: $109,491/yr. Send resume to hr@esusu.org.

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Assistant Restaurant Manager wanted by Hawaiian/Korean fast casual restaurant for job in NY, NY. $65,146.00/yr. Reqd HS diploma or GED. Send cover letter w/ resume to PCPR Corp. d/b/a Red Poke, 885 8th Ave., NY, NY 10019

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Investment Technology & Data Platform Development Lead wanted by Jain Global LLC in NY, NY to lead the dsgn Data Platform analytics & portfolio mgmt tools. Contribute to the data architecture & technology roadmap. Partner closely w/ Portfolio Mgrs, Analysts, Risk Mgrs, & other investment functions. Promote top-level s/ware dvlpmt stds & best practices in the fin'l technology space utilizing Python &/or any other advanced emerging AI/ML technologies. Lead work w/ cloud & data technologies. Oversee dsgn, dvlpmt, & maintenance of data ETL pipelines involving key fin'l data vendors. Manage the s/ware dvlpmt pipeline of projects. Lead geographically diverse teams of dvlprs & data engineers. Establish & maintain partnerships w/ vendors. Contribute to the recruiting & team building initiatives. Present technology initiatives to executive stakeholders & investment teams. Bachelor's deg in Electronic Engg, Comp Sci or rltd field & 8 yrs' exp as a S/ware Developer, S/ware Engineer, S/ware Programmer / Analyst, or closely rltd role. 8 yrs exp w/: Investment strategies such as Equity Long/Short, Macro, FX, Commodities, Fixed Income, Merger Arbitrage. Python & C#. REST APIs & WCF svcs. Bloomberg, Refinitiv, Option Metrics. Cloud technologies, docker, Kubernetes, Apache Airflow, & d/base systms like SQL Server. Salary: $250,000 annually. Send resume to: Tom Levy, CAO at 9 W 57th St, Fl. 39, NY, NY 10019 or email resume to careers@jainglobal.com

NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Jadestone Fortune LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Feona Yeung: 118 Secatogue Ave, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of LexLoo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of PRESHABBOS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Aqueduct

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Close The Loop (2nd)
Lock Record: 13 for 21 (62%)
Meet Record: 71/247 $360.06

1 1 mile(T); $45,000; clm($20,000); 4up(f)

And for the last time ever at Aqueduct we write...IN THE OPENER... **TOP OF THE TABLE** moves dirt to turf and lower for Linda Rice. 1 for 6 on grass but a threat at this reduced height. Franco a good sign. **THATS FUNNY** MTO. **LINARITE** is 2 for 30 after racing evenly, 4 lengths short. Sprint to route for Miceli who gets Davis to ride.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Celestial Express(L),121	C Gonzalez	4-6-7	Seyler	20-1
2	Tour Jete(L),121	J Rodriguez	8-6-6	Abreu	5-2
3	Tiznow Mama(L),123	K Carmouche	11-7-1	Summers	5-1
4	Hauntress(L),121	D Rivera	9-2-8	Arriaga	12-1
5	Top of the Table(L),123	M Franco	2-3-1	Rice	9-2
6	Miss Lao(L),123	R Gutierrez	1-7-7	Kantarmaci	10-1
7	Tongue Twister(L),121	J Castellano	7-6-5	Brion	3-1
8	Baby Sassicaia(L),123	H Harkie	5-2-1	Follett	15-1
9	Linarite(L),121	D Davis	4-2-6	Miceli	8-1
10	Pistol Liz Ablazen(L),121	R Silvera	6-6-3	Rodriguez	2-1
11	That's Funny(L),123	M Franco	4-7-1	Kantarmaci	9-5

2 1 mile; $80,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Manny Franco sweeps the early double with **CLOSE THE LOOP**. Sprinted home 2nd in her debut. Chad Brown gives her more ground; adds blinkers. Edge over first-time starter **TACTICALLY**. Santana rides the Tacitus 3YO for Morley. **INTO THE UNKNOWN** was 3rd behind top pick then a distant 2nd next out. **BOUNDING ALONG** closed well but ran out of ground, missing by a head. Falcone gives her another furlong to get there.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Into the Unknown(L),120	C Elliott	2-3-5	Sells	5-1
2	Bounding Along(L),120	D Davis	2-x-x	Falcone	6-1
3	My First Dinah(L),120	R Gutierrez	7-4-2	Jones	10-1
4	Close the Loop(L),120	M Franco	2-x-x	C Brown	4-5
5	Tactically(M),120	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Morley	4-1
6	Gotta Gun Runner(L),120	J Rodriguez	7-5-9	Abreu	12-1
7	Big Jackie(L),120	E Zayas	4-4-8	Ferraro	20-1

3 6 fur; $92,000; alw; 4up

Rich Dutrow's **IGNITE THE LIGHT** has won 2 of his last 3. The loss, a 2nd place finish while wide. Mott's **T KRAFT** is 4 for 5 at the Big A after winning in May. **RADIO RED** was 4th behind **ACOUSTIC AVE** who was 2nd when they met in the Grade 3 Nerud. Radio Red had won previous pair. Rider change to Silvera on Acoustic Ave. **OVER AND OLLIE** was 2nd behind T Kraft.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	T Kraft(L),123	J Lezcano	1-4-5	Mott	5-2
2	Over and Ollie(L),123	D Davis	2-7-6	R Dutrow	4-1
3	Ignite the Light(L),123	R Santana, Jr	1-2-1	R Dutrow	7-2
4	Acoustic Ave(L),123	R Silvera	2-5-4	Rice	9-2
5	Rookie Card(L),123	E Zayas	5-1-6	Gargan	10-1
6	Radio Red(L),123	K Carmouche	4-1-1	Gargan	8-1
7	El Grande O(L),123	M Franco	4-1-6	Rice	8-1
8	Light Man(L),121	J Castellano	2-4-4	Levine	12-1

4 1 1/16 miles(T); $82,000; alw; 3up(f)

A 3-time winner on dirt, **SHE TAKES CASH** is 0 for 8 on turf. Rallied to be 2nd, then 3rd at Tampa and Gulfstream. Chris Englehart stretches her longer. **FULL POUR** MTO. Has a win over the wet. **BERTRILLE** was 3rd, a neck back of **CONSIDERATE CITY** who was 2nd at the Spa. Bertrille is the only multiple turf winner in the field. Considerate City is 1 for 6. **COSMIC CANDY GIRL** is 1 for 5 but never off the board.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Lonchura(L),126	F Villa Pino	7-6-7	Barrera III	50-1
2	She Takes Cash(L),126	E Zayas	3-2-5	Englehart	8-1
3	Starship Pegasus(L),126	J Castellano	6-1-6	Nevin	2-1
4	Fabulous Fox(L),126	J Rodriguez	5-5-2	Ferraro	20-1
5	Considerate City(L),120	D Davis	2-3-7	Ferraro	3-1
6	Cosmic Candy Girl(L),120	K Carmouche	3-3-2	Ryerson	7-2
7	Bertrille(L),126	D Rivera	3-8-6	Baker	8-1
8	Boomington(L),120	M Franco	6-3-9	Weaver	9-2
9	Full Pour(L),126	Rider TBA	6-4-4	Hennig	9-5
10	Timia(L),126	J Castellano	3-2-2	Potts	2-1

5 6 fur(T); $82,000 alw; 3up(f)

Wide open. **MARIA CALLAS** makes 3YO debut for Chad Brown. Went 1 for 3 last year. The W at this distance. The losses at a mile+. Races 1st time lasix. **SUNSHINE LILY** MTO. **DISCO STAR** was a troubled 3rd behind 2nd place finisher **BOSTONS PHINEST** who is now 0 for 5 on grass. **FAIRY GODMOTHER** loads off a maiden breaker (5th start). Handal has her competitively spotted.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Olivia's Grace(L),126	C Elliott	10-3-9	Giddings	15-1
2	Charlottesuniverse(L),121	J Lezcano	1-8-2	Casse	10-1
3	Disco Star(L),126	E Zayas	3-2-6	Casse	6-1
4	Twirling Lulu(L),126	K Carmouche	1-5-5	Levine	15-1
5	Oriole Way(L),121	E Ruiz	2-1-x	Flores-Coba	30-1
6	Tenacious Child(L),121	D Rivera	8-4-5	Weaver	30-1
7	Fairy Godmother(L),121	D Davis	1-3-6	Handal	9-2
8	Boston's Phinest(L),126	J Castellano	2-3-5	B Brown	4-1
9	Dancingwithdestiny(M),121	J Hernandez	5-3-1	Dini	10-1
10	Juliet On Approach(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-1-3	Begg	15-1
11	Maria Callas(M),121	M Franco	5-1-9	C Brown	7-2
12	She's Our Tiz(L),126	J Rodriguez	10-4-3	Giangiulio	10-1
13	Ishkabibble(L),121	K Davis	2-8-5	Ibrahim	50-1
14	Oklahoma Smoke(L),126	J Lezcano	1-5-6	Rice	12-1
15	Sunshine Lily(L),126	Rider TBA	6-2-3	DiPrima	8-1
16	Sabby Sunset(L),126	M Franco	3-4-7	Kantarmaci	15-1

6 1 1/8 miles; $125,000; alw; 3up

GEORGIA MAGIC was a wide 4th as fave. Has speed, draws inside; rides the rail. **EZ ROLL** is now 2 for 2 at this distance after scoring by a 1/2 length. **APALTA** was 5th at 33-1 and **FIRST BLESSING** was 3rd at 48-1 in front of the compromised top pick. Apalta missed the break and is 3 for 4 at this longer distance. And **SENEGAL** was 2nd, about 5 lengths back of EZ Roll.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Georgia Magic(L),126	J Rodriguez	4-2-4	Schauer	3-1
2	Ez Roll(L),126	D Davis	1-3-1	Handal	5-2
3	Grand Commander(L),126	J Castellano	1-6-2	Potts	30-1
4	Willintoriskitall(L),126	M Franco	4-5-5	R Dutrow	8-1
5	Indy Rags(L),126	K Carmouche	2-1-2	Giangiulio	8-1
6	Register(L),126	S Gonzalez	3-5-1	Kantarmaci	15-1
7	Apalta(L),126	R Gutierrez	5-1-5	Kantarmaci	8-1
8	Run Quiet Run Fast(L),126	R Silvera	4-6-4	Morley	12-1
9	Senegal(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-2-5	Morley	6-1
10	First Blessing(L),120	E Zayas	3-4-3	Jimenez	10-1

7 1 1/16 miles(T); $48,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up

BIG FROSTY fell to this height and responded, missing by 3/4 of a length. Moves forward, same distance. **ROSSBEIGH** Narrowly defeated twice this level/distance at Saratoga. **G FIVE** was a troubled 8th at 77-1 behind Rossbeigh. Nevin gets Carmouche back.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Rossbeigh(L),126	M Franco	3-2-x	Clement	9-5
2	Free Refills(L),120	C Elliott	4-5-4	Brion	10-1
3	Beau Cheval(L),120	J Castellano	5-4-6	Begg	8-1
4	Bootsy's a Rascal(L),120	J Rodriguez	4-8-9	Schettino	20-1
5	Mambo Wishes(L),120	R Gutierrez	x-x-x	Lugovich	30-1
6	G Five(L),126	K Carmouche	8-8-3	Nevin	12-1
7	D C Boy's(L),126	R Silvera	7-4-3	Maker	8-1
8	Nonno Joe(L),126	D Davis	4-6-6	Rodriguez	8-1
9	Big Frosty(L),120	J Lezcano	2-9-x	Hampson	5-1
10	Bourboncentric(L),120	R Santana, Jr	6-x-x	Morley	10-1
11	Pilot Knob(L),120	E Zayas	9-4-8	B Brown	20-1
12	Rocolino(L),120	K Davis	8-6-x	Shivmangal	30-1

8 6 fur(T); $150,000; John Hettinger; 3up(f)

There have been a few stake races at Aqueduct since 1894. This is the last one. **SUNDAY GIRL** goes dirt to turf for Duggan after taking 2nd in the Correction. 1 for 2 on grass. The win was in last years Hettinger. **BAMS BLISS KISS** has won 6 in a row, the latest in the Biogios Riose. Makes it 7 if we're off turf. **SPINNING COLORS** led, faded in the longer Mount Vernon. No history at this distance but she may hang on at a price. **HIGHWAY HARMONY** moves to the stake off 3 straight wins. And **SILSBEE** is 3 for 3 at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Soloshot,124	J Rodriguez	2-1-3	Green	6-1
2	Mz Big Bucks,124	R Silvera	2-7-4	Nevin	15-1
3	Spinning Colors,126	R Gutierrez	5-7-3	Hennig	15-1
4	With the Angels,126	J Lezcano	4-1-1	Rice	4-1
5	Silsbee,124	M Franco	2-1-1	Weaver	7-2
6	Highway Harmony,124	E Zayas	1-1-1	Green	8-1
7	Blossoming Erudite,124	R Santana, Jr	2-9-1	Sharp	5-1
8	Sweet Brown Sugar,124	D Davis	2-2-3	Atras	9-2
9	Sunday Girl,126	K Davis	2-4-6	Duggan	6-1
10	Bam's Bliss Kiss,126	J Rodriguez	1-1-1	Abreu	2-1

9 1 1/8 miles; $100,000; alw; 3up

Last call of "riders up please!" Last sound of the trumpeters' "call to the post." Last time trainers will offer their rider a bit of advice. Last ever post parade. Last time the horses will load the gate. Last time you will hear "They're Off!" Last time around the clubhouse turn. Last time down the backstretch. Last time they'll turn for home. Last run down the stretch. Who will be the last thoroughbred to cross the finish first at Aqueduct? Our last call **MISSOURI RIVER** over **TRUSTY RUSTY** and **CONCORDE SPIRIT**.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	High Tide(L),126	R Gutierrez	7-4-3	Chatterpaul	30-1
2	Sharp Spark(L),126	M Franco	2-7-1	Kantarmaci	5-1
3	Missouri River(L),126	R Silvera	1-5-2	Pino	12-1
4	Assume Nothing(L),126	J Rodriguez	1-6-2	Ness	8-1
5	Trusty Rusty(L),126	K Carmouche	2-2-2	Hess	7-2
6	Tizmarkus(L),126	J Lezcano	1-3-7	Ferraro	6-1
7	Centavo(L),126	O Hrndz Mreno	5-6-10	Chatterpaul	30-1
8	Sara's Shaman(L),126	S Gonzalez	4-6-3	Kantarmaci	12-1
9	Peek(L),126	D Rivera	2-1-6	Rodriguez	6-1
10	Concorde Spirit(L),126	R Santana, Jr	3-2-5	Rodriguez	4-1
11	Life and Light(L),126	C Elliott	4-3-4	Pringle	12-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Romantic Dancer (7-2) was a contender in the stretch but a pretender when they crossed the wire. Loss of -$40.

Last two plays at Aqueduct. Ever. Bet $10 across the board on She Takes Cash in Race 4 and Missouri River in the Big A finale of finales. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Aqueduct Results

FIRST-6 fur; $28,000; clm($10,0); 4up (f&m)
3 Opn Sl Atsm (Hrk) 12.06 5.34
5 Sheznrctcqueen (Gutrrz) 5.08
Scr: Problematica
● $1 Exacta (3-5) $24.52

SECOND-1 1/16m; $41,000; md cl($30,0); 3p
4 Spnnng Clss (Lzcn) 5.24 2.74 2.46
1 Mappy (Zayas) 3.56 2.86
3 Kef (VillaPino) 6.64
Scr: Katerina Ristova
● $1 Daily Double (3-4) $16.94 ● $1 Exacta (4-1) $7.89 ● $1 Quinella (1-4) $3.91 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-3-7) $18.43 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-3) $38.36

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

THIRD-1 mile; $37,000; clm($25,000); 3up
4 Callng Crd (Frnco) 3.74 2.58 2.10
6 The Obliterator (Zayas) 3.14 2.24
3 Ducky Medwick (Davis) 2.44
Scr: Antietam, Lucky Dragon
● $1 Pick 3 (3-4-4) $37.02 ● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $5.69 ● $1 Exacta (4-6) $5.73 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-6-3-7) $1.71 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-6-3) $5.52

FOURTH-6½ fur; $28,000; clm($10,000); 4up
7 Sin Nombre (Davs) 38.96 12.98 6.10
2 He's Got This (Lezcano) 7.12 4.18
1 Classic Cut (Gonzalez) 3.70
● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-7) $110.27 ● $1 Daily Double (4-7) $45.52 ● $1 Exacta (7-2) $109.10 ● $1 Quinella (2-7) $42.99 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-2-1-6) $608.34 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-2-1) $265.43

FIFTH-6 fur; $48,000; clm($40,000); 3up
8 Aftr Txs (IRE) (Dvs) 3.74 2.70 2.10
5 Mddle Mrket (Rodrguez) 5.38 3.58
6 Slay Sadie Slay (Franco) 3.82
Scr: Swaging, Solomini's World, Toga d'Oro
● $1 Pick 3 (4-7-8) $114.00 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3-4-2/4/5-7-3/7/8/9) $847.52 ● $1 Daily Double (7-8) $33.38 ● $1 Exacta (8-5) $8.51 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-5-6-1) $25.93 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-5-6) $24.78

Winner picked by Vic C

SIXTH-1 1/16 mile; $57,000; cl($55,0); 3upf
3 Strlght Dncr (Crmch) 8.04 3.48 2.48
6 Putonahppyfce (Lezcno) 5.28 3.00
2 Brillante (FR) (Franco) 2.44
Scr: Karey, Amelia's Echo
● $1 Pick 3 (7-8-3) $181.80 ● $1 Daily Double (8-3) $10.28 ● $1 Exacta (3-6) $21.91 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-6-2-5) $24.37 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-6-2) $29.70

SEVENTH-6 fur; $37,000; clm($25,000); 3up
9 Sully (Franco) 6.50 3.52 3.06
3 Bold Love (Davis) 2.70 2.72
1 Salming (Rodriguez) 3.70
● $1 Pick 3 (8-3-9) $34.63 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (7-3/7/8/9-3-9) $321.47 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (2/4/5-7-3/7/8/9-3-9) $1074.66 ● $1 Daily Double (3-9) $20.26 ● $1 Exacta (9-3) $7.90 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-3-1-5) $11.02 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-3-1) $12.13

EIGHTH-6 fur; $150,000; Ashley T Cole; 3up
1 Waralo (Lezcano) 6.46 3.66 2.54
2 Sacrosanct (Franco) 5.54 2.98
6 Bold Journey (Carmouche) 2.78
Scr: TwistedFiligree, CounterMove, LightMan
● $1 Pick 3 (3-9-1) $60.81 ● $1 Daily Double (9-1) $14.77 ● $1 Exacta (1-2) $15.68 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-2-6-3) $8.47 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-2-6) $21.99

NINTH-1 mile; $88,000; alw; 3up (f&m)
1 Aeolian (Davis) 4.20 3.22 3.40
8 She's Grand (Lezcano) 7.60 4.86
5 Will Not Be Swayed (Guterrez) 12.00
Scr: Bernieandtherose
● $1 Pick 3 (9-1-1) $29.67 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3/7/8/9-3-9-1/5/9/10-1/4) $149.26 ● $1 Daily Double (1-1) $8.78 ● $1 Exacta (1-8) $13.09 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-8-5-9) $104.73 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-8-5) $97.74

TENTH-1 mile; $90,000; alw; 4up
8 Elmnte (Crmouch) 12.96 6.40 4.72
1 General Banker (Zayas) 11.16 8.02
7 Otello (Davis) 3.34
● $1 Grand Slam (1/3/9-1/2/5/6/9/10-1/4/5/8-8) $11.47 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-1-8) $42.20 ● $1 Daily Double (1-8) $18.81 ● $1 Exacta (8-1) $71.36 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-1-7-4) $236.35 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-1-7) $211.07

ELEVENTH-6 fur; $80,000; mdn spl wt; 3up
4 Supr Dv (Pnnngtn) 4.72 2.88 2.36
8 Sultan Hassn (Rodrguez) 6.32 4.52
5 Daisy Doo (Zayas) 3.44
Scr: Son of a Pharoah, Bold Scholar
● $1 Pick 6 (3-9-1/5/9/10-1/4-8-1/4/9) $19.58
● $1 Pick 6 (3-9-1/5/9/10-1/4-8-1/4/9) $1174.08 ● $1 Pick 3 (1-8-4) $41.96 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (1/5/9/10-1/4-8-1/4/9) $68.53 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (9-1/5/9/10-1/4-8-1/4/9) $225.65 ● $1 Daily Double (8-4) $19.57 ● $1 Exacta (4-8) $14.39 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-8-5-2) $23.23 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-8-5) $26.54

Winner picked by Vic C.

Golf

PGA Tour- Travelers Championship
At TPC River Highlands; Cromwell, Conn.; Purse: $20 million; Yardage: 6,844; Par: 70
Third Round

Viktor Hovland	65-61-64	190	-20
Scottie Scheffler	64-60-67	191	-19
Akshay Bhatia	66-62-67	195	-15
Patrick Cantlay	65-66-64	195	-15
Wyndham Clark	68-64-65	197	-13
Eric Cole	63-65-69	197	-13
Matt Fitzpatrick	64-66-67	197	-13
Ben Griffin	64-66-67	197	-13
Shane Lowry	68-65-64	197	-13
Sam Burns	66-66-66	198	-12
Si Woo Kim	69-64-65	198	-12
Keith Mitchell	68-67-63	198	-12
Justin Rose	65-66-67	198	-12
Alex Fitzpatrick	69-66-64	199	-11
Chris Gotterup	71-65-63	199	-11
Brian Harman	66-70-63	199	-11
Robert MacIntyre	67-65-67	199	-11
Collin Morikawa	69-66-64	199	-11
J.J. Spaun	66-65-68	199	-11
Jackson Suber	68-67-64	199	-11
Justin Thomas	68-66-65	199	-11
Bud Cauley	64-66-70	200	-10
Corey Conners	65-68-67	200	-10
Sungjae Im	68-66-66	200	-10
Hideki Matsuyama	67-67-66	200	-10
Aaron Rai	65-68-67	200	-10
Kristoffer Reitan	64-68-68	200	-10
Nicolas Echavarria	64-69-68	201	-9
Tommy Fleetwood	67-64-70	201	-9
Russell Henley	66-70-65	201	-9
Kurt Kitayama	69-63-69	201	-9
Denny McCarthy	67-68-66	201	-9
Daniel Berger	70-67-65	202	-8
Keegan Bradley	67-65-70	202	-8
Harris English	66-66-70	202	-8
Ryo Hisatsune	68-70-64	202	-8
Tom Hoge	67-70-65	202	-8
Matthew McCarty	69-70-63	202	-8
Maverick McNealy	67-64-71	202	-8
Brian Campbell	68-63-72	203	-7
Rickie Fowler	69-66-68	203	-7
Benjamin James	68-64-71	203	-7
Michael Kim	68-67-68	203	-7
Mac Meissner	70-66-67	203	-7
Nick Taylor	68-71-64	203	-7
Tony Finau	70-66-68	204	-6
Nicolai Hojgaard	71-66-67	204	-6
Xander Schauffele	67-69-68	204	-6
Brandt Snedeker	65-69-70	204	-6
Jason Day	70-68-67	205	-5
Harry Hall	67-70-68	205	-5
Jake Knapp	74-67-64	205	-5
Alex Noren	69-66-70	205	-5
J.T. Poston	67-67-71	205	-5

LPGA Tour- KPMG Women's PGA Championship
At Hazeltine; Chaska, Minn.; Purse: $13 million; Yardage: 6,760; Par: 72
Third Round

Hae-Ran Ryu	73-64-68	205	-11
Brooke Henderson	69-68-69	206	-10
Ina Yoon	63-69-75	207	-9
A Lim Kim	67-70-71	208	-8
Dewi Weber	70-70-68	208	-8
Nelly Korda	70-68-71	209	-7
Alison Lee	69-72-68	209	-7
Karis Davidson	65-74-71	210	-6
Auston Kim	71-70-69	210	-6
Dongeun Lee	69-69-72	210	-6
Allisen Corpuz	71-70-70	211	-5
Isabella Fierro	72-72-68	212	-4
Ayaka Furue	69-71-72	212	-4
Nataliya Guseva	70-72-70	212	-4
Esther Henseleit	69-74-69	212	-4
Jeeno Thitikul	69-71-72	212	-4
Miyu Yamashita	72-70-70	212	-4
Amy Yang	69-72-71	212	-4
Nasa Hataoka	70-67-76	213	-3
Aki Iwai	70-72-71	213	-3
Sei Young Kim	72-71-70	213	-3
Jenny Shin	71-69-73	213	-3
Patty Tavatanakit	71-68-74	213	-3
Jing Yan	69-71-73	213	-3
Pajaree Anannarukarn	71-72-71	214	-2
Manon De Roey	72-72-70	214	-2
Lydia Ko	76-69-69	214	-2
Andrea Lee	69-72-73	214	-2
Alexa Pano	67-76-71	214	-2
Mao Saigo	72-71-71	214	-2
Weiwei Zhang	71-68-75	214	-2

Champion's Tour - DICK'S Open
At En-Joie GC; Endicott, N.Y.; Purse: $2.2 million; Yardage: 6,994; Par: 72
Second Round

Padraig Harrington	65-67	132	-12
Thongchai Jaidee	66-67	133	-11
Dicky Pride	63-70	133	-11
Matt Gogel	69-65	134	-10
Richard Green	67-67	134	-10
Scott Hend	68-66	134	-10

DP World Tour - DS Automobiles 83° Open d*Italia
At Circolo Golf Torino; Fiano, Italy; Purse: $3 million; Yardage: 7,214; Par: 71
Third Round

E. Lopez-Chacrra	66-65-65	196	-17
Joaquin Niemann	64-63-71	198	-15
Matt Wallace	69-62-67	198	-15
A. Ayora Fanegas	66-63-71	200	-13
N. Von Dellingshusn,	69-67-64	200	-13
Dylan Frittelli	68-69-64	201	-12

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	47	33	.588	—	—	6-4	W-4	30-12	17-21
Yankees	48	34	.585	—	+7½	3-7	L-3	22-15	26-19
Toronto	39	44	.470	9½	2	4-6	L-5	22-23	17-21
Baltimore	39	45	.464	10	2½	5-5	L-1	23-20	16-25
Boston	35	46	.432	12½	5	6-4	W-3	15-25	20-21

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	43	38	.531	—	—	5-5	W-2	28-13	15-25
Cleveland	43	40	.518	1	+2	4-6	W-1	20-18	23-22
Minnesota	39	45	.464	5½	2½	5-5	L-1	21-23	18-22
Detroit	35	48	.422	9	6	5-5	L-1	23-20	12-28
Kansas City	34	50	.405	10½	7½	5-5	L-4	19-22	15-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	42	42	.500	—	—	4-6	L-1	22-19	20-23
Texas	41	42	.494	½	—	6-4	W-3	19-18	22-24
Houston	41	44	.482	1½	1	7-3	W-1	20-21	21-23
Athletics	40	43	.482	1½	1	4-6	L-1	18-23	22-20
Los Angeles	35	49	.417	7	6½	5-5	W-1	20-22	15-27

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Boston 4, **Yankees** 1
Houston 8, Detroit 6
Texas 7, Toronto 4
White Sox 2, Kansas City 1
Tampa Bay 4, Arizona 2
Cleveland 4, Seattle 3
Colorado 8, Minnesota 5
Washington 4, Baltimore 3, 10 inn.
L.A. Angels 5, Athletics 2

Sunday

Yankees at Boston, 7:20
Washington at Baltimore, 1:35
Texas at Toronto, 1:37
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 1:40
Houston at Detroit, 1:40
Seattle at Cleveland, 1:40
Colorado at Minnesota, 2:10
Kansas City at White Sox, 2:10
Athletics at L.A. Angels, 3:15

Monday

Detroit at **Yankees**, 7:05
Mets at Toronto, 7:07
White Sox at Baltimore, 6:35
Texas at Cleveland, 7:10
Washington at Boston, 7:10
Minnesota at Houston, 8:10
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 9:40
L.A. Dodgers at Athletics, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	49	32	.605	—	—	3-7	L-1	24-14	25-18
Philadelphia	46	37	.554	4	+2	6-4	L-1	23-19	23-18
Miami	44	39	.530	6	—	8-2	W-4	28-17	16-22
Washington	42	42	.500	8½	2½	3-7	W-1	17-25	25-17
Mets	35	48	.422	15	9	3-7	W-1	19-23	16-25

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	50	30	.625	—	—	6-4	L-1	26-16	24-14
Chicago	45	38	.542	6½	+1	7-3	W-1	23-17	22-21
St. Louis	42	38	.525	8	½	3-7	L-4	22-21	20-17
Pittsburgh	41	42	.494	10½	3	5-5	L-2	22-22	19-20
Cincinnati	39	42	.481	11½	4	5-5	W-2	19-22	20-20

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	53	30	.639	—	—	7-3	W-1	26-14	27-16
San Diego	43	38	.531	9	—	6-4	L-1	23-20	20-18
Arizona	41	41	.500	11½	2½	4-6	L-2	24-17	17-24
San Francisco	34	48	.415	18½	9½	5-5	W-1	17-22	17-26
Colorado	33	50	.398	20	11	6-4	W-1	18-22	15-28

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Mets 6, Philadelphia 2
Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 7
Tampa Bay 4, Arizona 2
Cubs 8, Milwaukee 2
Miami 5, St. Louis 1
Colorado 8, Minnesota 5
Washington 4, Baltimore 3, 10 inn.
San Francisco 5, Atlanta 0
L.A. Dodgers 15, San Diego 3

Sunday

Philadelphia at **Mets**, 1:40
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1:35
Washington at Baltimore, 1:35
Arizona at Tampa Bay, 1:40
Cubs at Milwaukee, 2:10
Colorado at Minnesota, 2:10
Miami at St. Louis, 2:15
Atlanta at San Francisco, 4:05
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 4:10

Monday

Mets at Toronto, 7:07
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6:40
Washington at Boston, 7:10
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 7:40
San Diego at Cubs, 8:05
Miami at Colorado, 8:40
L.A. Dodgers at Athletics, 9:40
San Francisco at Arizona, 9:40

Red Sox 4, Yankees 1

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Goldschmidt 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.291
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.276
Rosario 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.242
Bellinger lf-cf	2	0	1	0	2	0	.265
Domínguez rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Caballero 2b-lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.252
Schuemann cf	2	1	1	1	0	1	.206
Chisholm ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Volpe ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Wells c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.160
Totals	**29**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**6**	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yoshida dh	3	2	2	1	0	0	.245
Eaton ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Rafaela cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.284
Abreu rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.269
Contreras 1b	3	0	1	2	1	0	.281
Duran lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.198
Durbin 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.229
Seigler 2b	2	1	1	1	1	0	.333
Narváez c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Cheng ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Totals	**31**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**2**	**9**	

Yankees	**000 010 000 —**	**1**	**3**	**0**
Boston	**112 000 00x —**	**4**	**7**	**0**

LOB: New York 4, Boston 5. **2B:** Contreras (14). **HR:** Schuemann (1), off Bennett; Yoshida (2), off Cole; Seigler (1), off Cole. **RBIs:** Schuemann (4), Yoshida (11), Seigler (2), Contreras 2 (50). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 1 (Chisholm); Boston 2 (Durbin, Cheng). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Boston 1 for 6.. **DP:** Boston 1 (Seigler, Cheng, Contreras).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cole, L, 2-3	5.1	7	4	4	1	5	89	4.06
Headrick	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	17	1.62
Doval	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	9	4.70
Blackburn	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2.63

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Benntt, W, 2-3	6.1	3	1	1	2	3	87	3.27
Slaten, H, 9	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	12	6.23
Whitlock, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2.70
Chapman, S, 16-17	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	20	1.90

T: 2:22. **A:** 36,026 (37,755).

White Sox 2, Royals 1

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.244
Witt ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.291
Caglianone 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.265
Thomas cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.211
Massey 2b	2	0	2	0	1	0	.268
Tolbert pr-2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Rojas ph-2b-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.286
S.Perez c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Rave rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Marte ph-rf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.258
Loftin 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Misner lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Collins lf-2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.228
Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**9**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.293
Vargas 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.247
Benintendi dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.238
Acuña pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.222
Grichuk ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.268
C.Montgomery ss	4	1	2	0	0	1	.225
Meidroth 2b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.279
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	2	1	0	0	.246
Peters cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.284
J.Perez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Gonzalez 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.230
Romo c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.137
Teel ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.231
Totals	**34**	**2**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**8**	

Kansas City	**000 000 100 —**	**1**	**6**	**2**
Chicago	**000 000 101 —**	**2**	**10**	**0**

One out when winning run scored. **E:** Witt (6), Caglianone (3). **LOB:** Kansas City 6, Chicago 8. **2B:** S.Perez (10), Witt (20). **RBIs:** Jensen (43), B.Montgomery (8), Gonzalez (11). **SB:** Tolbert 2 (7). **CS:** B.Montgomery (1). **RISP:** Kansas City 1 for 7; Chicago 2 for 7. **DP:** Kansas City 2 (Witt, Massey, Caglianone; S.Perez, Witt, S.Perez); Chicago 1 (Vargas, Meidroth, Gonzalez).

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha	7.2	6	1	1	1	7	105	3.31
Lynch, L, 2-2	0.1	3	1	1	0	0	12	2.65
Schreiber	0.1	1	0	0	0	1	12	3.27

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Martin	5.1	4	0	0	1	3	87	3.00
Newcomb	1.2	2	1	1	2	2	30	2.54
Taylor, W, 3-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	4	19	2.83

T: 2:27. **A:** 28,569 (40,241).

Mets 6, Phillies 2

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	3	1	0	0	1	2	.233
Schwarber dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.253
Harper 1b	4	1	2	2	0	1	.278
Marsh lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.318
Stott 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.236
Sosa 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Rincones rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.118
Crawford cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.242
Marchán c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.115
Totals	**31**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**10**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Benge rf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.258
Soto lf	3	2	2	1	1	0	.299
Bichette 3b	3	1	1	1	0	1	.254
Lindor ss	3	1	1	2	1	0	.219
Young 1b	2	1	0	0	1	1	.238
Wagaman ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Vientos dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.214
Ewing cf	4	0	2	2	0	1	.271
Baty 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.212
Alvarez c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.250
Totals	**31**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**5**	**9**	

Philadelphia	**002 000 000 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**
Mets	**000 004 20x —**	**6**	**8**	**0**

LOB: Philadelphia 5, New York 7. **3B:** Lindor (3), Soto (2). **HR:** Harper (19), off Scott. **RBIs:** Harper 2 (50), Lindor 2 (7), Ewing 2 (17), Soto (39), Bichette (46). **SF:** Bichette. **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 2 (Stott, Rincones); New York 2 (Alvarez, Vientos). **RISP:** Philadelphia 0 for 2; New York 2 for 5. **Runners moved up:** Wagaman.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mayza	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	26	2.95
Rangel, L, 0-1	4.0	4	4	4	2	4	70	4.50
Bowlan	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	10	3.70
Backhus	1.0	2	2	2	1	1	27	6.35
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	16	5.87

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Scott	4.1	3	2	2	2	6	82	3.20
Minter, W, 1-1	1.2	1	0	0	0	1	22	0.00
Brazobán, H, 6	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	1.94
Weaver	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.06
Williams	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	14	4.28

T: 2:40. **A:** 37,338 (42,136).

Reds 9, Pirates 7

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.268
Stewart 3b	5	1	2	2	0	1	.252
Bleday lf	4	1	1	0	1	0	.240
Suárez dh	4	1	1	3	1	2	.210
N.Lowe 1b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.254
Steer ph-1b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.242
Marte rf	5	1	0	0	0	1	.198
Myers cf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.252
Trevino c	4	1	2	2	0	1	.204
Arroyo 2b	2	2	2	1	0	0	.263
Totals	**35**	**9**	**10**	**8**	**4**	**9**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf-lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.304
B.Lowe 2b	4	1	1	4	0	1	.246
Reynolds lf-rf	4	1	1	0	1	2	.289
Gonzales 3b	3	0	1	0	2	2	.295
O'Hearn 1b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.280
Ozuna dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.204
Rodríguez c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.256
Callihan rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.240
Valdez ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	.211
Cook cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.154
Triolo ss	4	2	3	1	0	0	.238
Totals	**37**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**3**	**12**	

Cincinnati	**101 022 003 —**	**9**	**10**	**0**
Pittsburgh	**003 100 210 —**	**7**	**11**	**2**

E: B.Lowe (6), Rodríguez (3). **LOB:** Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 7. **2B:** Trevino (2), Arroyo (3), Rodríguez (6), Triolo (7). **HR:** Stewart (15), off Jones; Suárez (8), off Soto; B.Lowe (20), off Burns; Valdez (4), off Ferguson. **RBIs:** Stewart 2 (57), Arroyo (3), Trevino 2 (4), Suárez 3 (29), B.Lowe 4 (56), Triolo (10), O'Hearn (46), Valdez (8). **SB:** Bleday (3). **SF:** B.Lowe. **S:** Arroyo. **RISP:** Cincinnati 5 for 12; Pittsburgh 3 for 8. **DP:** Pittsburgh 2 (B.Lowe, Triolo, O'Hearn; B.Lowe, Triolo, O'Hearn).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burns	6.0	9	5	5	0	10	93	2.36
Moll, BS, 1-5	0.2	1	1	1	2	0	20	4.01
Antone	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	2.35
Ferguson, W, 1-0	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	14	1.84
Petty, S, 1-1	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	3.72

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jones	4.2	4	4	3	1	4	81	5.76
Sisk	0.1	1	2	2	1	0	11	2.29
Ramírez	2.0	3	0	0	0	2	26	3.72
Mattson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.60
Soto, L, 4-2, BS, 11-15	1.0	2	3	3	2	1	33	3.93

T: 3:06. **A:** 30,077 (38,753).

Astros 8, Tigers 6

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	5	2	3	2	0	1	.298
Paredes 3b	4	1	2	2	1	0	.250
Altuve 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.239
Delgado 2b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Walker 1b	5	1	4	1	0	0	.240
Smith rf	3	1	1	2	0	1	.220
Loperfido ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.223
Diaz dh	5	2	2	0	0	1	.254
Meyers cf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.203
Matthews lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.196
Trammell ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Vázquez c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.214
Totals	**41**	**8**	**15**	**7**	**2**	**5**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle 3b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.283
Keith dh	4	1	0	0	0	0	.248
Dingler ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Greene lf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.290
Torkelson 1b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.207
Carpenter rf	4	1	2	4	0	0	.226
Vierling rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202
McKinstry ss	4	0	2	0	0	0	.185
Jones ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.141
Lee 2b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.261
Outman cf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.159
Rogers c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.155
Totals	**39**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**2**	**5**	

Houston	**021 100 130 —**	**8**	**15**	**1**
Detroit	**004 110 000 —**	**6**	**11**	**2**

E: Altuve (3), McGonigle (9), Outman (2). **LOB:** Houston 9, Detroit 9. **2B:** Walker 2 (16), Paredes (16), Torkelson (18), Greene (17), McKinstry (5). **HR:** Smith (9), off Valdez; Carpenter (12), off Teng; Lee (3), off Okert. **RBIs:** Smith 2 (30), Peña 2 (21), Walker (53), Paredes 2 (43), Carpenter 4 (35), Torkelson (32), Lee (11). **S:** Loperfido. **RISP:** Houston 5 for 14; Detroit 2 for 11. **DP:** Detroit 1 (McKinstry, Lee, Torkelson).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Teng	3.2	8	5	4	1	1	58	4.36
Okert	1.1	1	1	1	1	0	15	2.50
Blubaugh, W, 4-2	2.0	2	0	0	0	2	28	3.52
King, H, 9	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.31
Hader, S, 7-7	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0.82

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez	6.0	8	4	4	0	2	88	4.05
Anderson, H, 5	0.2	2	1	1	1	1	25	4.17
Sommers, H, 3	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.00
Vest, L, 3-5, BS, 2-7	1.0	4	3	2	0	2	26	6.08
Waguespack	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	14	2.57

T: 2:46. **A:** 27,232 (41,083).

Rays 4, Diamondbacks 2

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.261
Perdomo ss	4	1	3	0	0	0	.245
Carroll rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.281
Moreno c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.282
Del Castillo dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.184
Arenado 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Kepler lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Groover 1b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.174
Troy cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Totals	**32**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**0**	**8**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	3	1	1	0	1	1	.334
Aranda 1b	2	1	1	2	2	0	.289
Caminero 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.285
Mesa rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.193
Simpson lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Mullins cf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.207
Walls ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Palacios 2b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.232
Feduccia c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.222
Totals	**28**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**7**	

Arizona	**100 000 010 —**	**2**	**7**	**0**
Tampa Bay	**100 021 00x —**	**4**	**8**	**0**

LOB: Arizona 3, Tampa Bay 5. **2B:** Perdomo (11), Arenado (15), Mesa (1). **HR:** Marte (14), off K.Kelly; Caminero (21), off Cabrera; Aranda (13), off Cabrera. **RBIs:** Carroll (43), Marte (48), Caminero (47), Aranda 2 (57), Mullins (24). **CS:** Carroll (2). **SF:** Mullins. **RISP:** Arizona 1 for 2; Tampa Bay 0 for 5. **DP:** Arizona 2 (Arenado, Groover, Arenado; Perdomo, Marte, Groover).

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cabrera, L, 0-1	5.0	7	4	4	2	4	80	3.60
Morillo	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	23	2.87
Ginkel	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	13	2.84
Clarke	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	6	2.04

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sulser	2.0	2	1	1	0	1	27	5.35
Grove, W, 1-0	3.0	1	0	0	0	4	34	0.00
Legumina, H, 4	1.2	2	0	0	0	1	35	3.15
K.Kelly, H, 18	1.1	2	1	1	0	2	20	2.61
Baker, S, 21-24	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.95

T: 2:19. **A:** 17,562 (25,025).

Dodgers 15, Padres 3

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	5	2	2	0	0	1	.296
Robinson ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125
Pages cf	4	3	2	0	2	0	.270
Freeman 1b	5	2	3	1	0	0	.291
Ward 1b	1	0	1	1	0	0	.218
Betts ss	5	1	1	3	0	1	.230
Call lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Muncy 3b	5	3	2	1	0	0	.266
Edman lf-2b	4	1	2	3	1	0	.379
Tucker rf	5	1	3	4	0	2	.238
Rushing c	4	1	1	1	1	1	.240
Freeland 2b-ss	4	1	0	0	1	1	.231
Totals	**44**	**15**	**17**	**14**	**5**	**6**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf-2b	5	0	1	1	0	0	.284
Taylor lf	3	1	0	0	2	0	.344
Merrill cf	5	0	2	0	0	2	.212
Machado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.183
Song ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Sheets 1b	4	1	3	2	0	0	.234
Bogaerts ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Bowen rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.129
Andujar dh	3	0	2	0	1	0	.253
Wagner 2b-3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.265
Fermin c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.142
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**4**	**6**	

Los Angeles	**010 009 041 —**	**15**	**17**	**0**
San Diego	**000 011 100 —**	**3**	**9**	**1**

E: Wagner (1). **LOB:** Los Angeles 7, San Diego 9. **2B:** Edman (2), Freeman (21), Pages (19), Andujar (13). **3B:** Muncy (1), Edman (1). **HR:** Tucker (7), off Vásquez; Rushing (9), off Vásquez; Betts (11), off Marinaccio; Sheets (13), off Yamamoto. **RBIs:** Edman 3 (4), Tucker 4 (44), Rushing (23), Freeman (44), Betts 3 (25), Muncy (35), Ward (12), Sheets 2 (35), Tatis (30). **CS:** Pages (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Los Angeles 1 (Freeland); San Diego 5 (Bogaerts, Fermin 2, Machado 2). **RISP:** Los Angeles 8 for 15; San Diego 2 for 8. **DP:** Los Angeles 1 (Betts, Freeman).

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, W, 8-5	6.0	5	2	2	2	4	89	2.67
Hurt	0.1	2	1	1	2	0	19	3.71
Vesia	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.33
Dreyer	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	27	3.58
Rojas	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.00

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Hart	2.0	2	1	1	1	2	36	4.15
Vásquez, L, 6-6	3.1	8	7	5	1	1	79	4.56
Marinaccio	1.2	3	5	3	3	1	45	4.24
Morgan	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	17	4.50
Durán	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	14	9.00

T: 3:07. **A:** 45,159 (40,222).

Angels 5, Athletics 2

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bolte cf	5	0	0	0	0	4	.305
Kurtz 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.280
Langeliers dh	3	0	1	0	1	1	.267
Soderstrom lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Butler rf	1	0	1	0	2	0	.198
Heim c	3	1	1	1	1	1	.246
Thomas rf-lf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.211
Cortes ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.232
McNeil 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.233
Williams ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Meneses ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.125
Totals	**32**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**5**	**13**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.225
Guzman 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.270
Schanuel 1b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.262
Soler dh	4	1	2	0	0	2	.222
Grissom pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.235
Meckler lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.278
Adell rf	2	1	2	2	0	0	.252
Walton 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.318
Peraza 2b	1	0	1	1	0	0	.259
O'Hoppe c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.235
Lowe cf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.200
Siri cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Totals	**33**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**8**	

Athletics	**010 001 000 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**
Los Angeles	**000 200 12x —**	**5**	**10**	**0**

LOB: Athletics 8, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** Guzman (3), Adell (15). **3B:** Adell (1). **HR:** Heim (7), off Detmers. **RBIs:** Heim (20), Thomas (7), Adell 2 (45), Guzman (12), Peraza (22), O'Hoppe (22). **SB:** Thomas (1), Lowe (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Athletics 6 (Muncy 6); Los Angeles 3 (Schanuel, O'Hoppe, Walton). **RISP:** Athletics 1 for 8; Los Angeles 4 for 11. **DP:** 1 (Muncy, McNeil, Kurtz).

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Perkins	5.0	4	2	2	1	5	81	6.00
Sterner	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	4.06
Hartlieb, L, 1-1	0.2	2	1	1	0	0	9	3.18
Krook	0.2	2	2	2	0	1	12	10.80
Barnett	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	7	1.17

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Detmers	5.2	4	2	2	3	8	99	3.88
Silseth	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	9	2.37
Zeferjahn, W, 4-3	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	4.30
Bachman, H, 12	1.0	1	0	0	2	1	26	3.35
Yates, S, 2-4	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.06

T: 2:41. **A:** 37,064 (45,517).

Guardians 4, Mariners 3

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	5	0	0	0	0	3	.219
Rodríguez cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.250
Canzone dh	5	1	2	0	0	1	.275
Arozarena lf	4	1	2	3	0	0	.288
Naylor 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.253
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.162
Raley rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.238
Young 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Emerson ss	3	0	0	0	1	2	.206
Totals	**36**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**8**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Bazzana 2b	4	2	2	0	0	0	.260
Rocchio ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.269
Manzardo 1b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.233
Watson rf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.250
Schneemann cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Ingle dh	3	0	1	2	0	2	.200
Arias 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.200
Bailey c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.175
Halpin cf-rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.170
Totals	**31**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**0**	**8**	

Seattle	**000 000 030 —**	**3**	**8**	**0**
Cleveland	**000 310 00x —**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Manzardo (1). **LOB:** Seattle 11, Cleveland 3. **2B:** Canzone (13), Watson (2), Rocchio (13). **HR:** Arozarena (8), off Armstrong. **RBIs:** Arozarena 3 (36), Watson (8), Ingle 2 (2), Rocchio (34). **SB:** Arias (1). **RISP:** Seattle 1 for 9; Cleveland 2 for 6.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gilbert, L, 6-5	7.0	7	4	4	0	7	103	3.42
Ferrer	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	2.57

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cecconi, W, 4-6	6.0	3	0	0	2	4	87	4.18
Holderman	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	14	1.55
Sabrowski, H, 19	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	8	2.82
Armstrong	0.0	3	3	3	0	0	10	4.30
Gaddis, H, 14	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.42
Smith, S, 25-28	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.13

T: 2:38. **A:** 33,309 (34,788).

Marlins 5, Cardinals 1

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Edwards 2b	5	1	3	1	0	1	.298
Lopez ss	5	1	2	1	0	0	.336
Stowers 1b	3	0	2	2	1	0	.230
Hernández lf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Caissie rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.227
Ruiz ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Marsee cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.199
Conine dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.225
Sanoja 3b	4	1	3	1	0	0	.260
Mack c	4	1	1	0	0	1	.252
Totals	**36**	**5**	**13**	**5**	**2**	**6**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.262
Herrera dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Burleson 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.282
Walker rf	3	1	1	0	1	2	.290
Nootbaar lf	3	0	2	0	1	1	.308
Winn ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.243
Torres 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Fermín ph-3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Crooks c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.157
Church cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.257
Totals	**33**	**1**	**7**	**1**	**2**	**9**	

Miami	**101 200 100 —**	**5**	**13**	**0**
St. Louis	**000 001 000 —**	**1**	**7**	**0**

LOB: Miami 6, St. Louis 8. **2B:** Marsee (11), Edwards (12). **3B:** Lopez (4). **RBIs:** Stowers 2 (32), Sanoja (26), Edwards (29), Lopez (36), Winn (32). **SB:** Sanoja 2 (5). **RISP:** Miami 5 for 11; St. Louis 1 for 3. **DP:** Miami 1 (Sanoja, Stowers); St. Louis 3 (Torres, Wetherholt, Burleson; Winn, Burleson; Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gusto	3.1	3	0	0	1	4	63	5.06
King, W, 6-1	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.00
Bachar	2.0	3	1	1	1	1	31	3.05
Bender	1.1	1	0	0	0	2	20	2.62
Zuber	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.91

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pallante, L, 9-5	6.2	11	5	5	1	4	98	3.83
Svanson	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	11	7.20
Bruihl	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	21	3.89

T: 2:40. **A:** 25,876 (44,494).

Rockies 8, Twins 5

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy cf-rf-lf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.305
Moniak lf	3	0	0	1	0	0	.270
ovar ph-ss	1	1	1	0	1	0	.211
Goodman dh	5	3	3	5	0	1	.246
Rumfield 1b	4	0	2	0	1	0	.291
Castro ss-2b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Freeman 2b-rf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.280
Johnston rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.312
Carrigg ph-cf	1	1	0	0	1	1	.245
Karros 3b	3	1	1	2	1	1	.253
B.Sullivan c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.213
Totals	**38**	**8**	**12**	**8**	**4**	**4**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	5	1	3	3	0	0	.288
Buxton cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Clemens 2b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.242
Martin ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Bell dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.244
Caratini c	3	0	1	1	0	1	.238
Lewis 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Lee 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.244
Gray ss	4	1	1	0	0	2	.248
Keaschall rf-2b	3	1	1	0	1	0	.247
Totals	**36**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**4**	

Colorado	**101 010 320 —**	**8**	**12**	**0**
Minnesota	**100 001 003 —**	**5**	**10**	**0**

LOB: Colorado 7, Minnesota 7. **2B:** Rumfield (17), Freeman (6), Lee (12), Larnach (14). **3B:** McCarthy (5), Bell (1). **HR:** Goodman 2 (24), off Paredes; Goodman (25), off Funderburk; Karros (5), off Raya. **RBIs:** Goodman 5 (47), Moniak (30), Karros 2 (23), Clemens (33), Caratini (31), Larnach 3 (27). **SB:** Tovar (5), McCarthy (13). **SF:** Caratini. **RISP:** Colorado 1 for 6; Minnesota 2 for 8. Minnesota 1 (Keaschall, Gray, Lewis).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lorenzen, W, 3-9	5.2	7	2	2	0	1	92	6.83
Vodnik, H, 3	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	15	6.65
Bernardino	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	3.62
Agnos	0.1	3	3	3	1	1	25	7.71
Herget, S, 3-4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	9	4.05

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Paredes, L, 0-1	5.1	8	3	3	0	2	74	4.26
Rogers	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	9	6.16
Funderburk	1.0	2	3	3	1	0	25	4.87
Raya	2.0	2	2	2	2	1	40	9.00

T: 2:56. **A:** 25,115 (38,544).

Giants 5, Braves 0

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Harris cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.300
Albies 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.277
Olson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Baldwin c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Do.Smith dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.275
Dubón lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Riley 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Yastrzemski rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.221
Kim ss	2	0	0	0	1	2	.070
Totals	**28**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**3**	**7**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.320
Schmitt lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.290
J.Lee rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.323
Devers 1b	3	2	2	4	0	1	.240
Adames ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.230
Eldridge dh	3	1	1	0	0	2	.279
Chapman 3b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.237
Gilbert cf	2	0	0	1	0	0	.228
Cavanaugh c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.167
Totals	**28**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**1**	**8**	

Atlanta	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**1**	**0**
San Francisco	**023 000 00x —**	**5**	**6**	**1**

E: Cavanaugh (1). **LOB:** Atlanta 4, San Francisco 1. **2B:** Dubón (16), Eldridge (11). **HR:** Devers 2 (14), off Elder. **RBIs:** Devers 4 (43), Gilbert (16). **CS:** Chapman (2). **SF:** Gilbert. **Runners left in scoring position:** Atlanta 2 (Baldwin, Kim); San Francisco 0. **RISP:** Atlanta 0 for 3; San Francisco 1 for 2.

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Elder, L, 5-6	4.0	5	5	5	1	4	69	4.01
Holmes	4.0	1	0	0	0	4	47	3.96

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Webb, W, 5-5	7.0	1	0	0	2	6	92	3.09
Walker	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	23	5.40
Hentges	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.45

T: 2:02. **A:** 35,140 (41,915).

Nationals 4, Orioles 3, 10 inn.

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	4	0	0	0	1	3	.257
J.Young cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.228
García 1b	5	1	4	1	0	0	.273
Tena dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.221
Mead ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	1	3	.279
Crews cf-rf	4	1	0	0	1	2	.223
Lile lf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.252
Vivas 3b	5	1	3	1	0	0	.265
Nuñez 2b	5	0	1	0	0	3	.237
Millas c	5	0	2	1	0	1	.186
Totals	**43**	**4**	**13**	**4**	**3**	**14**	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward lf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.259
Henderson ss	5	0	1	0	0	2	.223
Alonso 1b	4	1	1	1	1	2	.252
Mayo dh	2	0	0	0	1	2	.193
Basallo ph-dh	2	0	1	1	0	0	.254
O'Neill rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.184
Cowser ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Alexander 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.304
Taveras cf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Jackson 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.251
Tromp c	3	1	2	1	0	0	.250
Holliday ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Totals	**37**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**12**	

Washington	**010 011 000 1 —**	**4**	**13**	**1**
Baltimore	**010 000 020 0 —**	**3**	**7**	**2**

E: Nuñez (11), Alexander 2 (4). **LOB:** Washington 13, Baltimore 8. **2B:** Lile (18), Tena (9), García (13), Alonso (15). **HR:** García (14), off B.Young. **RBIs:** Vivas (15), García (50), Millas (10), Lile (39), Tromp (4), Alonso (56), Basallo (36). **SB:** Nuñez (32). **RISP:** Washington 3 for 15; Baltimore 3 for 9.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Griffin	7.0	3	1	0	2	9	112	2.93
Poulin, H, 7	0.2	1	1	1	0	1	11	3.06
Ribalta, BS, 2-5	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	12	3.86
Beeter, W, 3-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	20	3.20
Lawrence, S, 1-2	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	15	7.76

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
B.Young	5.0	7	2	2	2	8	93	3.11
Garcia	1.0	2	1	0	0	1	18	2.62
Akin	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	35	5.68
Kittredge	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	14	5.68
Helsley, L, 0-4	1.0	2	1	0	0	1	21	4.11

T: 3:14. **A:** 29,616 (45,971).

Cubs 8, Brewers 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.279
Shaw rf	3	2	1	0	1	1	.246
Conforto ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	.236
Dean rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.667
Suzuki dh	5	1	2	2	0	0	.263
Bregman 3b	3	1	0	1	1	1	.242
Busch 1b	2	1	1	0	2	1	.239
Hoerner 2b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.239
Happ lf	4	1	1	3	0	3	.227
Kelly c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.277
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.193
Totals	**34**	**8**	**9**	**8**	**5**	**11**	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Chourio lf-cf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.298
Turang 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Contreras c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.302
Vaughn 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Mitchell ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Sánchez dh	2	0	1	0	0	0	.220
Yelich ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Perkins cf	2	1	1	0	0	0	.161
Bauers ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Frelick rf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.237
Pratt ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Ortiz 3b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.201
Hamilton ph-3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.234
Totals	**30**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**1**	**5**	

Chicago	**000 204 101 —**	**8**	**9**	**0**
Milwaukee	**100 010 000 —**	**2**	**5**	**0**

LOB: Chicago 5, Milwaukee 2. **2B:** Busch (14), Kelly (10), Perkins (6). **HR:** Suzuki (12), off Harrison; Happ (17), off Patrick; Conforto (5), off Kuhnel; Chourio (11), off Peterson. **RBIs:** Suzuki 2 (35), Hoerner (36), Happ 3 (41), Bregman (27), Conforto (16), Chourio (31), Frelick (30). **SF:** Bregman. **RISP:** Chicago 2 for 4; Milwaukee 1 for 1. **DP:** Chicago 2 (Swanson, Kelly, Bregman, Kelly; Hoerner, Swanson, Busch).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Petersn, W, 4-6	5.2	5	2	2	0	2	69	5.86
Ferguson	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	10	9.00
Webb	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.57
Thornton	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	2.74
Velasquez	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.00

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Harrison	5.0	3	2	2	1	9	92	2.57
Patrick, L, 5-4	0.2	2	4	4	2	0	30	3.90
Anderson	1.1	2	1	1	2	0	26	3.55
Koenig	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.00
Kuhnel	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	18	4.32

T: 2:32. **A:** 40,193 (41,700).

Rangers 7, Blue Jays 4

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	5	0	0	0	0	3	.242
Jung 3b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.291
Seager ss	4	2	1	1	1	3	.185
Nimmo rf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.263
Burger 1b	5	1	3	2	0	0	.259
Kelenic lf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.213
Duran ph-lf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.267
Osuna cf	4	1	2	2	1	0	.260
Díaz c	5	0	1	2	0	2	.273
Lopez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.305
Totals	**38**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**6**	**13**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	3	0	2	0	1	0	.305
Urías ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.300
Guerrero dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.258
Okamoto 3b	4	0	0	0	0	4	.241
Kirk c	4	1	1	1	0	2	.196
Keys 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.250
Clement 2b	4	1	3	0	0	0	.303
Piñango lf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.282
Giménez ss	3	0	2	1	0	0	.240
Straw ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Totals	**37**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**1**	**11**	

Texas	**100 051 000 —**	**7**	**11**	**1**
Toronto	**000 022 000 —**	**4**	**10**	**0**

E: Jung (5). **LOB:** Texas 10, Toronto 7. **2B:** Díaz (5), Jung (18), Clement (21). **HR:** Seager (10), off Fisher; Piñango (5), off Ahlstrom; Kirk (2), off Ross. **RBIs:** Burger 2 (50), Osuna 2 (14), Díaz 2 (12), Seager (25), Piñango 2 (20), Kirk (7), Giménez (34). **SB:** Burger (2), Lopez (3). **RISP:** Texas 4 for 13; Toronto 2 for 7. **DP:** Texas 1 (Burger, Seager).

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill	4.0	2	0	0	1	5	55	3.31
Ahlstrom	0.1	3	2	2	0	0	12	4.50
Ross	1.1	4	2	2	0	2	29	9.26
Gray, W, 3-0	2.1	1	0	0	0	4	39	3.14
Alexander, S, 3-4	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2.70

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cease, L, 4-4	4.2	4	4	4	5	10	107	3.02
Fluharty	0.1	2	2	2	1	0	14	4.50
Fisher	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	12	3.48
Nance	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	11	3.68
Hoffman	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	20	4.71
Rogers	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	22	1.86

T: 3:14. **A:** 41,657 (39,150).

Tennis

WTA Bad Homburg Open

At Bad Homburg Tennis Club; Hamburg, Germany; Purse: Euro1,049,083; Surface: Grass; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):

Women's Singles - Championship

ATP World Tour Mallorca Championships

At Santa Ponca; Mallorca, Spain; Purse: Euro612,620; Surface: Grass; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):

Men's Singles - Championship

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (2), Spain, def. Ethan Quinn, United States, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Eastbourne Open

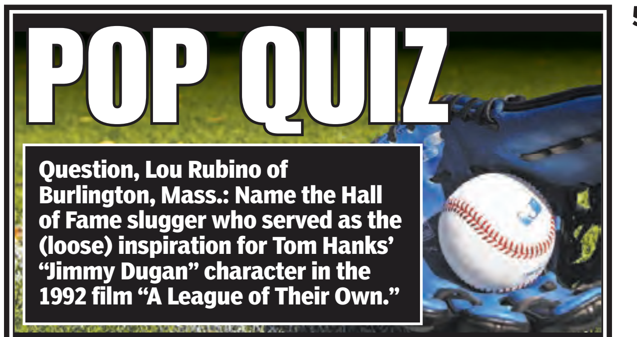
At Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club; Eastbourne, Great Britain; Surface: Grass; Saturday (seedings in parentheses):

Women's Singles - Championship

Madison Keys (2), United States, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 7-5, 6-4.

DP World Tour Schedule

May 21-24 — Soudal Open (Richard Sterne)
May 28-31 — Austrian Alpine Open presented by Kitzbühel Tirol (Kota Kaneko)
June 4-7 — KLM Open (Eugenio Lopez-Chacarra)
June 18-21 — U.S. Open (Wyndham Clark)
June 25-28 — DS Automobiles 83° Open d*Italia, Fiano, Italy
July 2-5 — BMW International Open, Munich
July 9-12 — ISCO Championship, Louisville, Ky.
July 9-12 — Genesis Scottish Open, North Berwick, United Kingdom
July 16-19 — The Open Championship, Southport, United Kingdom



POP QUIZ

Question, Lou Rubino of Burlington, Mass.: Name the Hall of Fame slugger who served as the (loose) inspiration for Tom Hanks' "Jimmy Dugan" character in the 1992 film "A League of Their Own."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: ERIC HEIDEN COMPETED IN "DANCING WITH THE STARS."

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	1	3	33	31	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	2	14	22	31
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Toronto FC	3	6	5	14	22	29
Atlanta	3	9	2	11	14	23
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Los Angeles FC	7	5	3	24	24	17
Seattle FC	7	3	3	24	17	11
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	5	5	20	22	22
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
St Louis City	4	6	4	16	16	20
Portland	4	8	2	14	22	28
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	9	2	11	14	36

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Thursday, July 16

Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Chicago, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Champions Tour Schedule

June 26-28 — DICK'S Open, Endicott, N.Y.
July 2-5 — U.S. Senior Open Championship, Columbus, Ohio
July 9-12 — Kaulig Companies Championship, Akron, Ohio
July 23-26 — ISPS HANDA Senior Open, Auchterarder, United Kingdom
July 31-Aug. 2 — Portugal Invitational, Quarteira, Portugal
Aug. 14-16 — Boeing Classic, Snoqualmie, Wash.
Aug. 21-23 — Rogers Charity Classic, Calgary, Alberta
Aug. 28-30 — The Ally Challenge, Grand Blanc, Mich.
Sept. 11-13 — Sanford International, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sept. 18-20 — PURE Insurance Championship, Pebble Beach, Calif.

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	12	7	.632	—
Liberty	12	7	.632	—
Indiana	11	8	.579	1
Toronto	9	10	.474	3
Washington	8	9	.471	3
Chicago	6	12	.333	5½
Connecticut	4	15	.211	8

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	14	4	.778	—
Las Vegas	13	5	.722	1
Golden State	12	7	.632	2½
Dallas	11	7	.611	3
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	6
Portland	8	11	.421	6½
Phoenix	7	13	.350	8
Seattle	5	15	.250	10

Saturday

Phoenix 89, Toronto 80
Indiana 111, Los Angeles 87
Seattle 105, Atlanta 90

Sunday

Liberty at Golden State, 7pm
Minnesota at Dallas, 2pm
Portland at Washington, 3pm
Las Vegas at Chicago, 4pm

Monday

No games scheduled.

Tuesday

Las Vegas at **Liberty**, 7pm (2026 Commissioner's Cup Final)

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	8	4	1	25	19	13
Utah Royals FC	7	2	3	24	18	10
Portland	7	3	3	24	20	14
Washington	6	2	3	21	18	9
Gotham FC	**6**	**2**	**3**	**21**	**12**	**5**
Kansas City	7	5	0	21	18	17
North Carolina	5	3	3	18	17	13
Orlando	5	5	2	17	18	17
Denver Summit FC	4	4	3	15	17	13
Seattle	4	5	2	14	10	13
Houston	4	6	2	14	14	19
Angel City	4	6	1	13	16	14
Bay FC	3	6	2	11	9	17
Boston Legacy FC	2	7	3	9	11	19
Chicago	3	9	0	9	5	24
Louisville	2	8	1	7	15	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday

Houston at Washington, 8pm
Kansas City at Denver Summit FC, 9:30pm
Orlando at Angel City, 10pm

Saturday, July 4

Seattle at North Carolina, 6:30pm
Gotham FC at San Diego, 8:45pm

Sunday, July 5

Bay FC at Boston Legacy FC, 12pm
Utah Royals FC at Chicago, 5pm
Louisville at Portland, 7pm

The POST Line

MLB
Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	-100-122	RED SOX
METS	$108-131	Phillies
TIGERS	$114-138	Astros
BLUE JAYS	$157-194	Rangers
WHITE SOX	$109-133	Royals
Mariners	$123-150	GUARDIANS
Athletics	-107-115	ANGELS
Reds	-101-120	PIRATES
BREWERS	$135-164	Cubs
CARDINALS	$118-143	Marlins
Dodgers	$168-207	PADRES
GIANTS	$111-134	Braves
RAYS	$119-145	Diamondbacks
Nationals	-101-121	ORIOLES
TWINS	$147-181	Rockies

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Lynx	4.5 (177.5)	WINGS
Tuesday-Commissioner's Cup Final		
LIBERTY	3.5 (173.5)	Aces

FIFA World Cup
Sunday- Round of 32

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Canada	$225-295	South Africa
game held in Inglewood, Calif.		
Monday		
*Brazil	$230-300	Japan
**Netherlands	$135-175	Morocco
***Germany	$425-625	Paraguay
*Houston, **Monterrey, Mexico, *** Foxborough, Mass.		
Tuesday		
*Norway	$140-175	Ivory Coast
**France	$525-750	Sweden
*Arlington, TX, **MetLife Stadium		
Wednesday		
United States	$425-600	Bosnia & Herzegovina
game held in Santa Clara, Calif.		
Friday		
*Egypt	$115-145	Australia
**Argentina	$1000-2000	Cape Verde
**Arlington, TX, **Miami Gardens		

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Peterson wins Cubs debut

Ian Happ hit a three-run homer, newly acquired left-hander **David Peterson** bounced back for the win after giving up a home run on his first pitch as a Cub, and Chicago beat the Brewers 8-2 in Milwaukee.

Peterson (4-6), acquired Thursday from the Mets to bolster an injury-riddled rotation, allowed **Jackson Chourio**'s 11th homer on his first pitch, settled in to allow two runs on five hits in $5\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

- In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Junior Caminero** homered for the third consecutive game and the Rays moved back into the top spot in the AL East with a 4-2 victory against the Diamondbacks.
- In Chicago, **Jacob Gonzalez** hit a one-out RBI single in the ninth inning to give the White Sox a 2-1 walk-off win over the Royals, and 10 consecutive home series victories for the first time in franchise history.
- In Detroit, **Isaac Paredes** hit a two-run double in the eighth inning and the Astros spoiled their former manager's opportunity at a milestone 1,000th victory by rallying for an 8-6 win over the Tigers.
- In Baltimore**, Daylen Lile** hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning and the Nationals beat the Orioles 4-3.
- In San Francisco, **Rafael Devers** homered twice and drove in four runs as the Giants beat the Braves 5-0.

NBA: Harper signs $9M deal

The Celtics are re-signing **Ron Harper Jr.** to a new three-year, $9 million contract, ESPN reported.

The Celtics are declining the 26-year-old forward's $2.6 million team option for 2026-27 to commit to the longer deal.

Harper averaged 4.2 points and 11.0 minutes in 29 games (three starts) in his first season with Boston in 2025-26.

GOLF: Hovland grabs Travelers lead

Viktor Hovland was trying to keep up with **Scottie Scheffler** until he flipped the script on the final hole with a 6-foot birdie for a 6-under 64 that gave him a one-shot lead going into the final round of the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, Conn.

- In Chaska, Minn., **Haeran Ryu** shot a 4-under 68 to take a one-shot lead over **Brooke Henderson** after three rounds of the Women's PGA Championship.

WNBA: Mitchell, Fever beat Sparks

Kelsey Mitchell scored 26 points and the Indiana Fever thumped the Los Angeles Sparks 111-87 in Indianapolis with two of the league's top scorers sidelined. **Caitlin Clark** missed the game with a back injury and **Kelsey Plum** is out four weeks for the Sparks with a left leg injury.

TENNIS: Keys wins Eastbourne title

Two-time Wimbledon quarterfinalist **Madison Keys** clinched her third Eastbourne Open title with a 7-5, 6-4 win over **Tatjana Maria**, before the men's final between **Zizou Bergs** and **Ugo Humbert** was postponed to Sunday due to rain.

MMA: Fiziev gets fast victory

Lightweight **Rafael Fiziev** needed 15 seconds into the second round to secure a brutal TKO over **Manuel Torres** to close out UFC Fight Night in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Fiziev (14-5 MMA) snapped Torres' (17-4 MMA) two-fight winning streak.

TOP PLAY

Gray a Bosox bright $pot

By SEAN TREPPEDI

It's a shame that midseason Yankees vs. Red Sox on "Sunday Night Baseball" doesn't hold the same gravitas that the rivalry is capable of.

That's partly because Aaron Judge is still on the injured list and partly because the Red Sox have plummeted in organizational disarray.

For as much as Boston's anemic offense and error-prone defense has hindered it, the pitching has been as advertised: a top-10 rotation supported by a top-three bullpen in ERA.

Before this series, Boston dropped two of three to the woeful Rockies. The win came from Sonny Gray, who delivered an 11-strikeout gem, allowing one earned run in seven innings.

Gray's 9-1 record and 2.95 ERA are a testament to his elite command and efficiency through $76\frac{1}{3}$ innings.

Facing him is Carlos Rodón, who has been progressively building back to form this season after recovering from elbow surgery. He's been a reliable piece in an ailing Yankees rotation at 4-2 with a 3.70 ERA, but his command isn't quite there with a walk rate that's crept up to 4.79 per nine innings.

Offensively, the Yankees are simply not the same without Judge. With No. 99, they were second overall in wRC+; without him, they are 14th.

The Red Sox don't have the gas long term, but they're worth a moneyline sprinkle on primetime.

THE PLAY: Red Sox moneyline (-118).

streppedi@nypost.com

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'25 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Yankees	Rodón (L)		4-2	3.70	5-3	0-0	0.00	5-6	3-0	16.1	4.96
Red Sox	Gray (R)	(7:20pm)	9-1	2.95	10-4	1-0	4.26	3-3	2-0	20.0	2.25
Phillies	Luzardo (L)		6-4	4.00	10-6	2-0	3.86	6-2	2-0	19.1	1.86
Mets	Perez (R)	(1:40pm)	3-3	4.99	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nationals	Littell (R)		6-6	5.40	6-5	1-0	0.00	3-3	1-2	11.2	7.71
Orioles	Bradish (R)	(1:35pm)	5-7	3.64	8-8	0-0	0.00	2-0	2-0	19.2	2.75
D'Backs	Kelly (R)		5-7	5.71	5-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-3	17.1	5.71
Rays	Rasmussen (R)	(1:40pm)	6-4	2.62	8-7	0-0	7.20	0-0	1-2	20.0	1.35
Rockies	Feltner (R)		2-2	4.79	5-5	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	15.0	6.00
Twins	Prielipp (L)	(2:10pm)	2-5	5.17	3-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-2	16.1	4.96
Rangers	Rocker (R)		2-6	4.14	5-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	13.0	6.92
Blue Jays	Bieber (R)	(1:37pm)	0-0	9.82	0-1	0-0	0.00	0-1	1-1	15.0	4.80
Astros	Brown (R)		1-0	1.40	2-2	0-0	1.59	3-0	1-0	14.2	1.84
Tigers	Mize (R)	(1:40pm)	2-5	2.95	3-8	0-1	5.79	2-1	0-2	14.1	4.40
Mariners	Kirby (R)		6-7	3.94	8-8	1-0	1.50	1-1	1-2	18.0	3.50
Guardians	Williams (R)	(1:40pm)	9-4	3.82	10-6	0-1	5.40	1-1	0-1	15.0	7.20
Royals	Avila (R)		3-3	5.06	4-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	11.1	7.94
White Sox	Kay (L)	(2:10pm)	6-2	4.24	9-5	2-0	1.54	2-1	1-1	15.0	3.60
Athletics	Civale (R)		5-4	4.88	6-7	—	—	3-1	0-3	11.0	12.27
Angels	Aldegheri (L)	(3:15pm)	2-3	5.47	2-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	12.2	8.53
Reds	Singer (R)		3-6	4.81	6-9	0-1	10.80	2-5	1-0	18.0	1.50
Pirates	Keller (R)	(1:35pm)	5-5	4.89	8-8	1-0	1.29	4-6	0-2	15.1	5.28
Cubs	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewers	Woodruff (R)	(2:10pm)	2-1	3.00	5-2	0-1	6.23	2-3	0-1	12.1	2.19
Marlins	Phillips (R)		1-2	3.09	2-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	15.0	6.00
Cardinals	Leahy (R)	(2:15pm)	5-4	4.24	6-9	0-1	7.20	0-1	0-1	17.1	3.63
Braves	Sale (L)		8-5	2.14	9-5	0-0	0.00	2-0	0-2	17.0	2.65
Giants	Ray (L)	(4:05pm)	6-6	3.70	9-6	1-0	0.00	2-4	2-0	18.2	2.41
Dodgers	Sheehan (R)		3-5	5.32	7-7	0-0	9.00	0-0	0-3	9.2	10.24
Padres	King (R)	(4:10pm)	5-6	3.33	7-9	1-0	0.00	3-0	1-1	18.0	3.00

***REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Singalong. Take Cincy's righty

No truth to the rumors that Stitches will be interviewing to be the next Mets manager. But after losing back-to-back games by a combined score of 35-3, the suits at Citi Field will give Royals manager Matt Quatraro a look.

Going back to Pittsburgh, where the road 'dog Reds won for us Friday. Cincy's Brady Singer has given up four earned runs in his past 22 innings. The Pirates' Mitch Keller has surrendered 22 earned runs over his past 24 innings. We will play $50 on Singer and the Reds.

+$

The Tigers, and your favorite scamdicapper, were cruising on a comfortable 6-3 lead thanks to a Kerry Carpenter grand slam. Detroit relief pitcher Will Vest entered the game in the eighth inning, and when he left, the Astros were ahead 8-6. Loss. Still up +91 mickeylolichs.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY June 28	MON June 29	TUE June 30	WED July 1	THU July 2
	Boston 7:20 NBC/Peacock 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 7:05 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 7:05 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	Detroit 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME
	Philadelphia 1:40 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 7:07 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 7:07 SNY 880 AM	Toronto 3:07 SNY 880 AM	NO GAME
	Golden State 7:00 ESPN	NO GAME	Las Vegas 7:00 Prime Video	NO GAME	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday, July 22		Saturday	
	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		San Diego Wave FC 8:45 ION

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
1:30 p.m.	Reds at Pirates	MLBN
1:40 p.m.	Phillies at Mets	SNY, 880 AM
3 p.m.	Athletics at Angels	NBCSN, Peacock
7:20 p.m.	Yankees at Red Sox	NBC, Peacock, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
3 p.m.	Round of 32: South Africa vs. Canada	Fox
WNBA BASKETBALL		
2 p.m.	Lynx at Wings	CBS
4 p.m.	Aces at Sky	CBS
7 p.m.	Liberty at Valkyries	ESPN
GOLF		
6 a.m.	DP World Tour: DS Automobiles 83° Open d'Italia, Final Round	Golf
9 a.m.	LPGA Tour: KPMG Women's PGA Championship, Final Round	NBCSN
1 p.m.	LPGA Tour: KPMG Women's PGA Championship, Final Round	NBC
2 p.m.	PGA Tour: Travelers Championship, Final Round	Golf
4 p.m.	PGA Tour: Travelers Championship, Final Round	NBC
4 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: DICK'S Open, Final Round	Golf
CFL FOOTBALL		
7 p.m.	Ottawa at Montreal	CBSSN
MEN'S SOCCER		
7 p.m.	Canadian Premier League: Supra du Quebec at Cavalry	FS2
AUTO RACING		
7:30 a.m.	FIM MotoGP: Netherlands GP	FS1
9 a.m.	Formula 1: Austrian Grand Prix	Apple TV
Noon	FIM Motocross Championship: MXGP	CBSSN
3:30 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Toyota / Save Mart 350 In-Season Challenge - Round 1	TNT
SOFTBALL		
1 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Cascade at Volts	ESPN
8 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Bandits at Spark	MLBN
X GAMES		
2 p.m.	X Games Sacramento 2026: Day 3	ABC
9 p.m.	X Games Sacramento 2026: Day 3	ESPN
HORSE RACING		
Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
12:30 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS2
2 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	FS1

NASCAR

Favorites to win 2026 Save Mart 350

DRIVER	ODDS	DRIVER	ODDS
Shane van Gisbergen	-160	AJ Allmendinger	20/1
Kyle Larson	+700	Ryan Blaney	25/1
Connor Zilisch	+900	Chris Buescher	30/1
Tyler Reddick	+900	William Byron	35/1
Ty Gibbs	10/1	Chase Elliott	40/1
Michael McDowell	10/1	Daniel Suárez	50/1
Carson Hocevar	10/1	Denny Hamlin	50/1
Ross Chastain	18/1	Joey Logano	50/1
Chase Briscoe	20/1	Austin Hill	50/1

ODDS & ENDS

WORLD CUP

Sunday

South Africa vs. Canada

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
South Africa	+400
Draw	+250
Canada	-135
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+125
Under 2.5	-160

Monday

Brazil vs. Japan

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Brazil	-145
Draw	+270
Japan	+400
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+105
Under 2.5	-135

Germany vs. Paraguay

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Germany	-275
Draw	+380
Paraguay	+675
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-135
Under 2.5	+105

Netherlands vs. Morocco

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Netherlands	+115
Draw	+220
Morocco	+250
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+125
Under 2.5	-155

Tuesday

Ivory Coast vs. Norway

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
Ivory Coast	+240
Draw	+240
Norway	+105
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-115
Under 2.5	-110

France vs. Sweden

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
France	-350
Draw	+475
Sweden	+850
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-175
Under 2.5	+138

Wednesday

United States vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina

3-WAY BETTING	ODDS
United States	-250
Draw	+360
Bosnia-Herzegovina	+700
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+118
Under 2.5	-110

BET SMART

GETTING AHEAD: Star forward Jonathan David and Canada are The Post's Mike Turay's pick to win against South Africa on Sunday in a low-scoring affair (at 3.5 goals, Turay is taking the Under).
Imagn Images

Yes they Canada!

By MIKE TURAY

The World Cup knockout stage brings us an intriguing opening matchup Sunday between South Africa and Canada.

Both sides advanced after finishing second in their respective groups, but their paths couldn't have been more different.

Bafana Bafana overcame South Korea in dramatic fashion to clinch a spot in the round of 32 after two disappointing showings in earlier group play against Mexico and Czechia. Many had counted them out. Thapelo Maseko's strike in the 63rd minute clinched South Africa's first trip to the knockout stage.

Canada seemed to have first place in Group B within reach after tying Bosnia in the opener, followed by Jonathan David's elusive hat trick, which propelled Les Rouges to a 6-1 win over Qatar.

However, that was short-lived, as they lost to Switzerland 2-1 in their group-play finale, missing out on a chance to host an opponent in Vancouver.

At this stage of the tournament, teams tend to play with much more patience, methodically working their way through the flow of the game to score goals. Canada has the clear edge, but it's the unpredictability of Bafana Bafana that makes this one closer than their +400 underdog odds suggest.

Hugo Broos praised his team for adjusting its defensive intensity against South Korea and using longer passes to set up its forwards in space. The result was a gutsy, hallmark win that qualified them for this stage of the tournament for the first time.

Although Bafana Bafana began group play 0-2, they have surrendered just three goals throughout the group stage. Which version of Broos' team shows up will also dictate this outcome. It was only a couple of weeks ago that Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane each picked up red cards against Mexico.

Though South Africa's strategy will likely be to hold back its defense and examine, Canada is also content to play the waiting game. The explosive nature of David, along with the activity of Promise David and Tani Oluwaseyi, could be what pushes them through to the round of 16.

The health of Alphonso Davies remains in question, as Jesse Marsch admitted he used Davies' bench status as a decoy in their match against Switzerland, but the captain should be ready for this monumental contest.

David remains the spark for the Reds' offense following his otherworldly performance against Qatar. With all eyes on Canada's sole shot creator, it's important to note that six of South Africa's past seven games have gone Under.

These two teams rely on slow-building possession and a defensive approach to create opportunities. If this game were being played north of the border, the confidence level would be much higher, but I expect Canada to prevail and strike to halt South Africa's underdog run.

Recommendation: Canada to win and Under 3.5 goals to be scored (+115, BetMGM Sportsbook).

ON THE BEATEN TRACK

LAST DAY FOR BIG A: Sunday will be the final racing card at Aqueduct, the New York mainstay for horse racing. A staple for more than 130 years, even if its comforts, or lack thereof, won't be missed, the no-frills venue famous for its prevalent fog will forever be home to a parade of wins, losses and cherished memories.

> *"Good morning yesterday. You wake up and time has slipped away. And suddenly it's hard to find the memories you left behind. Remember. Do you remember?"*
>
> **— Paul Anka**

Vic Cangialosi

NO RACING at Aqueduct on Monday. Or ever again. Born Sept. 27, 1894, the racetrack in South Ozone Park, Queens, will run its last-ever horse race Sunday. Not many race fans will be reaching for the Kleenex box when the thoroughbreds load the starting gate for the ultimate nightcap. OK, maybe after the race if their 32-1 shot loses by a nose. But for some, like this aging handicapper, it will mark the end of a lifetime of memories.

If you asked 100 fans what their favorite racetrack is, you may hear two or three tell you Aqueduct. And you would look at them as if they hadn't quite heard the question. Saratoga is grand hats. Aqueduct is backward baseball caps worn by fans trying to figure out if the speed will hold in the late double. Santa Anita's backdrop? The scenic San Gabriel Mountains. The Big A? Mounds of dirt left by construction crews. Churchill Downs? Mint juleps. Aqueduct? Beer. Cold if you wait until Race 3. Gulfstream Park has flamingos. Railbirds rule at the Big A.

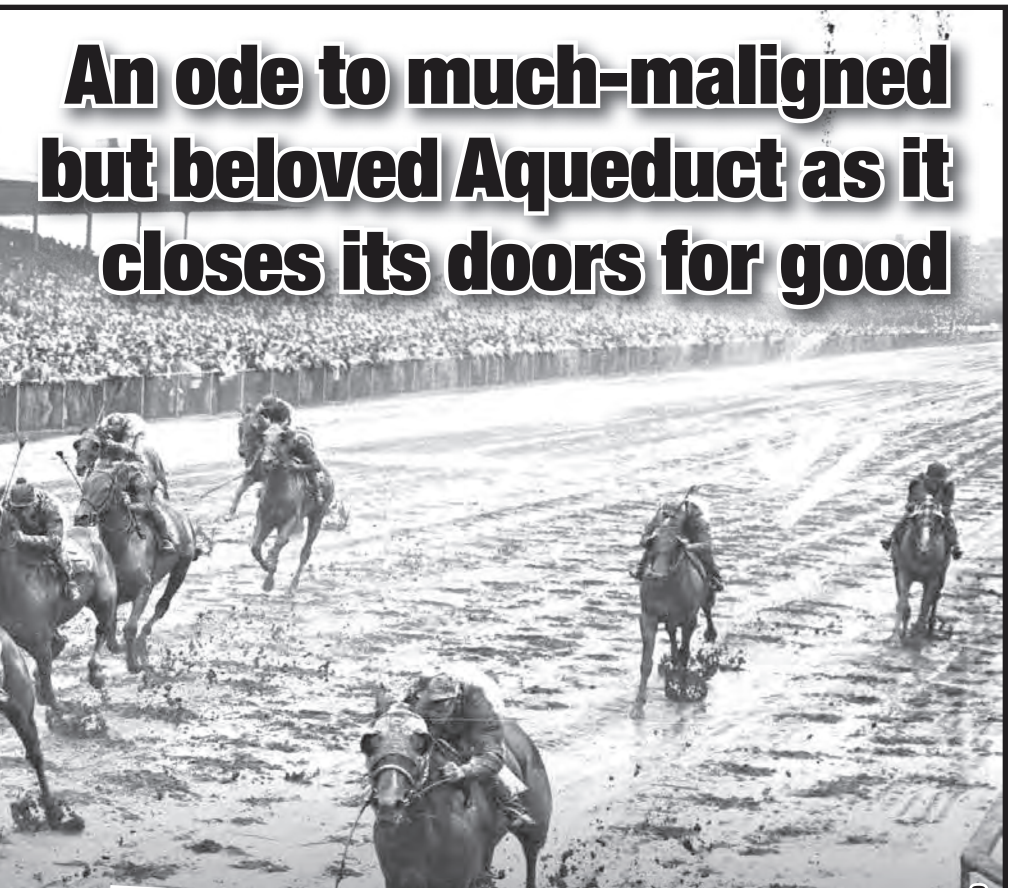
Three things you can count on: death, taxes and three or four maiden claiming races on every card. But Aqueduct is where Secretariat made his career debut — a loss on July 4, 1972. It's where Seattle Slew won the Wood Memorial before going on to win the Triple Crown. It's where Pope John Paul II prayed for peace. And where Tony Soprano and his gang prayed for Pie-O-My to win.

I was born in Brooklyn, raised in Queens — 115th Street between Rockaway Boulevard and Sutter Avenue. A furlong from Aqueduct. From our attic, with the help of a pair of binoculars, you could see a part of the main track. From the street, you could hear the crowd roar. We imagined — no, knew — it was for us as we played Wiffle ball in the yard.

Watch the races on Fox Sports? That school you see in the distance? It's P.S. 100, where I learned to read. That church? O.L.P.H., where I learned to confess. Pan back a bit more. That's Sofia's Pizza, formerly the Guys of Vinegar Hill Tavern, where I learned not to mix vodka with rum. We played roller hockey in the parking lot near 114th Street until Big A security chased us. We walked to John Adams High School carrying textbooks and a racing form.

When old enough — well, almost old enough to wager — I would meet my dad, uncles and cousins at the 1/16th pole, first floor. A family affair. The memories are forever and priceless. I watched my Uncle George bet $500 on the mighty Forego. (Aunt Mary still doesn't know about that one.) Watched my Uncle Dan run the length of the stretch yelling at Darby Creek Road to get up in the 1978 Wood. They both finished second behind Believe It. Aqueduct could have been renamed Transylvania Downs when the thick

An ode to much-maligned but beloved Aqueduct as it closes its doors for good



Getty Images (3); Star Max

fog set in. When they crossed the wire, my cousin John and I stared at each other, with no clue if we won, lost or if our horse even ran. If one of us hit big, we would make our way over to Don Peppe's, an Italian restaurant off Lefferts Boulevard that Tony Soprano would have frequented. If not, we would convince each other, "We'll get them tomorrow."

We had racing legends in our backyard. Riders like Angel Cordero Jr., Jorge Velazquez and Eddie Maple. I remember that winter when it seemed Steve Cauthen won five or six races a day. And how dozens of angry fans booed a jockey (unheard of today) if they thought they didn't get a fair ride. Trainers like Allen "The Chief" Jerkens and Frank "Pancho" Martin.

We heard race calls from men blessed with golden pipes. Marshall Cassidy, Chic Anderson, John Imbriale and Dave "Down the stretch they come" Johnson. Later, Tom Durkin brought his story-telling style.

We listened as Harvey Pack laid out his betting strategy for the Early Pick Three on the closed-circuit monitor. When we couldn't get there, Pack, Frank Wright and Charlsie Cantey were there and we tuned in on Saturday evenings to watch the feature and the finale on Channel 9. But only if the antenna was properly placed. We considered selections from newspaper handicappers like John Piesen, Rick Lang, John Pricci and Russ Harris.

It was a golden age for horse racing. And we soaked it in.

Things change. There are a couple of hundred fans at the Big A now. There were a couple of hundred people who didn't get a seat there in the '60s, '70s and early '80s. It was special. Exciting. Fun. Our neighborhood loved Aqueduct like the Springs loves Saratoga.

So as the sun sets for the last time behind the tote board and the majority happily say "good riddance," we say, "Thank you, Aqueduct," for all the memories. Hope you hit the last race Sunday.

But if you don't ... we'll get them tomorrow.

vcangialosi@nypost.com

FIFA World Cup

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Mexico	3	2	0	0	3	0	6
y-South Africa	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
South Korea	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
Czechia	3	0	1	3	2	6	1

GROUP A
Thursday, June 11
Mexico 2, South Africa 0
South Korea 2, Czechia 1
Thursday, June 18
Czechia 1, South Africa 1
Mexico 1, South Korea 0
Wednesday
Mexico 3, Czechia 0
South Africa 1, South Korea 0

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Switzerland	3	2	1	0	7	3	7
y-Canada	3	1	1	1	8	3	4
y-Bosnia-Herzegovina	3	1	1	1	5	6	4
Qatar	3	0	1	2	2	10	1

GROUP B
Friday, June 12
Canada 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Saturday, June 13
Qatar 1, Switzerland 1
Thursday, June 18
Switzerland 4, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
Canada 6, Qatar 0
Wednesday
Switzerland 2, Canada 1
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3, Qatar 1

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Brazil	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
y-Morocco	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Scotland	3	1	0	1	1	4	3
Haiti	3	0	0	2	2	8	0

GROUP C
Saturday, June 13
Brazil 1, Morocco 1
Scotland 1, Haiti 0
Friday, June 19
Morocco 1, Scotland 0
Brazil 3, Haiti 0
Wednesday
Brazil 3, Scotland 0
Morocco 4, Haiti 2

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-United States	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**8**	**4**	**6**
y-Australia	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Paraguay	3	1	0	1	2	4	4
Turkey	3	1	0	2	3	2	3

GROUP D
Friday, June 12
United States 4, Paraguay 1
Sunday, June 14
Australia 2, Turkey 0
Friday, June 19
United States 2, Australia 0
Paraguay 1, Turkey 0
Thursday
Turkey 3, **United States** 2
Paraguay 0, Australia 0

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Germany	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
y-Ivory Coast	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
y-Ecuador	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Curacao	3	0	1	2	1	9	1

GROUP E
Sunday, June 14
Germany 7, Curacao 1
Ivory Coast 1, Ecuador 0
Saturday, June 20
Germany 2, Ivory Coast 1
Ecuador 0, Curacao 0
Thursday
Ecuador 2, Germany 1
Ivory Coast 2, Curacao 0

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Netherlands	3	2	1	0	10	4	7
y-Japan	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
y-Sweden	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Tunisia	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

GROUP F
Sunday, June 14
Netherlands 2, Japan 2
Sweden 5, Tunisia 1
Saturday, June 20
Netherlands 5, Sweden 1
Sunday, June 21
Japan 4, Tunisia 0
Thursday
Netherlands 3, Tunisia 1
Japan 1, Sweden 1

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Belgium	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
y-Egypt	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Iran	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
New Zealand	3	0	1	2	4	10	1

GROUP G
Monday, June 15
Belgium 1, Egypt 1
Iran 2, New Zealand 2
Sunday, June 21
Belgium 0, Iran 0
Egypt 3, New Zealand 1
Friday
Belgium 5, New Zealand 1
Egypt 1, Iran 1

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Spain	3	2	1	0	5	0	7
y-Cape Verde	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Saudi Arabia	3	0	2	1	1	5	2

GROUP H
Monday, June 15
Spain 0, Cape Verde 0
Saudi Arabia 1, Uruguay 1
Sunday, June 21
Spain 4, Saudi Arabia 0
Uruguay 2, Cape Verde 2
Friday
Spain 1, Uruguay 0
Cape Verde 0, Saudi Arabia 0

GROUP I

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-France	3	3	0	0	10	2	9
y-Norway	3	2	0	1	8	7	6
Senegal	3	1	0	2	8	6	3
Iraq	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

GROUP I
Tuesday, June 16
France 3, Senegal 1
Iraq 1, Norway 4
Monday, June 22
France 3, Iraq 0
Norway 3, Senegal 2
Friday
France 4, Norway 1
Senegal 5, Iraq 0

GROUP J

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Argentina	3	3	0	0	8	1	9
y-Austria	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
y-Algeria	3	1	1	1	5	7	4
Jordan	3	0	0	3	3	8	0

GROUP J
Tuesday, June 16
Argentina 3, Algeria 0
Wednesday, June 17
Austria 3, Jordan 1
Monday, June 22
Argentina 2, Austria 0
Algeria 2, Jordan 1
Saturday
Argentina 3, Jordan 1
Algeria 3, Austria 2

GROUP K

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Colombia	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
y-Portugal	3	1	2	0	6	1	5
y-Congo	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Uzbekistan	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

GROUP K
Wednesday, June 17
Portugal 1, Congo 1
Colombia 3 Uzbekistan 1
Tuesday
Portugal 5, Uzbekistan 0
Colombia 1, Congo 0
Saturday
Colombia 0, Portugal 0
Congo vs. Uzbekistan, (n)

GROUP L

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-England	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
y-Croatia	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
y-Ghana	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Panama	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

GROUP L
Wednesday, June 17
England 4, Croatia 2
Ghana 1, Panama 0
Tuesday
England 0, Ghana 0
Croatia 1, Panama 0
Saturday
England 2, Panama 0
Croatia 2, Ghana 1

x-Clinched group, y-advances to the round of 32

ROUND OF 32
Sunday
South Africa vs. Canada, 3pm
Monday
Brazil vs. Japan, 1pm
Germany vs. Paraguay, 4:30pm
Netherlands vs. Morocco, 9pm
Tuesday
Ivory Coast vs. Norway, 1pm
France vs. Sweden, 5pm
Mexico vs. Ecuador, 9pm
Wednesday
Congo vs. England, 12pm
Belgium vs. Senegal, 4pm
United States vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina, 8pm
Thursday
Austria vs. Spain, 3pm
Portugal vs. Croatia, 7pm
Switzerland vs. Algeria, 11pm
Friday
Australia vs. Egypt, 2pm
Argentina vs. Cape Verde, 6pm
Colombia vs. Ghana, 9:30pm

Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series Toyota / Save Mart 350 Lineup

After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Sonoma Raceway; Sonoma, Calif.; Lap length: 1.99 miles; (Car number in parentheses)

1. (54) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 95.738 mph.
2. (77) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 95.706.
3. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 95.686.
4. (71) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 95.677.
5. (1) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 95.631.
6. (97) Shane Van Gisbergen, Chevrolet, 95.630.
7. (19) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 95.540.
8. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 95.463.
9. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 95.454.
10. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 95.412.
11. (45) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 95.393.
12. (33) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 95.276.
13. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, 95.065.
14. (20) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 95.056.
15. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 95.033.
16. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 95.025.
17. (88) Connor Zilisch, Chevrolet, 94.996.
18. (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 94.836.
19. (60) Ryan Preece, Ford, 94.727.
20. (42) John H. Nemechek, Toyota, 94.712.
21. (7) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 94.590.
22. (48) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 94.472.
23. (2) Austin Cindric, Ford, 94.465.
24. (38) Zane Smith, Ford, 94.452.
25. (35) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 94.415.
26. (23) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 94.404.
27. (41) Cole Custer, Chevrolet, 94.359.
28. (21) Josh Berry, Ford, 94.315.
29. (34) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 94.164.
30. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 94.103.
31. (10) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 93.902.
32. (43) Erik Jones, Toyota, 93.889.
33. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Chevrolet, 93.605.
34. (4) Noah Gragson, Ford, 93.519.
35. (6) Brad Keselowski, Toyota, 93.487.
36. (51) Cody Ware, Chevrolet, 92.512.

F1 Austrian Grand Prix Lineup

After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Red Bull Ring; Spielberg, Austria.; Lap length: 4.33 kilometers; Third session

1. George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 1 minute, 06.113 seconds.
2. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 1:06.349.
3. Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Ferrari, 1:06.408.
4. Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italy, Mercedes, 1:06.414.
5. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 1:06.475.
6. Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 1:06.502.
7. Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 1:06.511.
8. Isack Hadjar, France, Red Bull Racing, 1:06.632.
9. Liam Lawson, New Zealand, Racing Bulls, 1:06.955.
10. Arvid Lindblad, Great Britain, Racing Bulls, 1:07.007.

Eliminated after second session

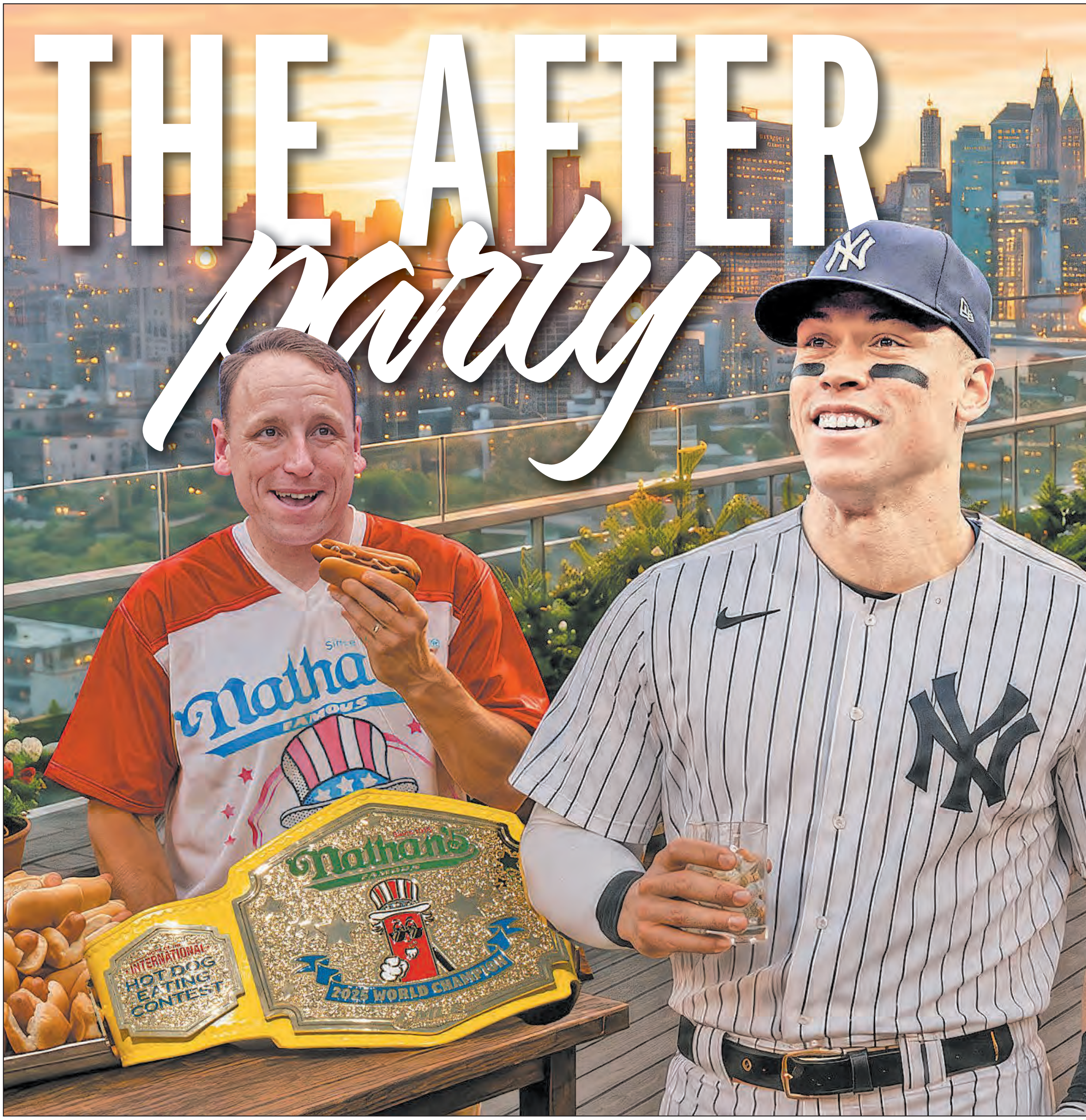
11. Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 1:07.223.
12. Gabriel Bortoleto, Brazil, Audi F1 Team, 1:07.293.
13. Oliver Bearman, England, Haas, 1:07.523.
14. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Audi F1 Team, 1:07.611.
15. Esteban Ocon, France, Haas, 1:07.817.
16. Franco Colapinto, Argentina, Alpine, 1:08.171.

Eliminated after first session

17. Carlos Sainz Jr., Spain, Williams, 1:08.252.
18. Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, 1:08.509.
19. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Cadillac, 1:08.945.
20. Valtteri Bottas, Finland, Cadillac, 1:09.030.
21. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 1:09.942.
22. Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 1:10.363.

THE AFTER *party*

By STEVE SERBY



I KNOW, I know. You're all going through withdrawal in the wake of the Knicks magical championship run. Completely understood.

But as much as this is a Knicks town, the Yankees are lurking as a threat to finally capture that elusive 28th world championship.

And it is simply stating fact that no other city has as delicious a smorgasbord of entertainment options on the playing fields and inside the arenas.

Aces at Liberty

Tuesday

A'ja Wilson leads the defending WNBA champs into Barclays Center, where Breanna Stewart & Co. will be waiting.

Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest

Saturday

Joey Chestnut, the 17-time Mustard Belt champion, defends his title after devouring 70.5 hot dogs a year ago. Defending women's champ Miki Sudo (33 hot dogs) is hungry for her fifth consecutive crown.

World Cup Round of 16

July 5

Matchup TBD at MetLife Stadium. OK, it's New Jersey. Easy for New Yorkers to get there.

Home Run Derby

A new format: Instead of timed rounds, participants will start each round with a finite number of swings: 20 in Round 1; 15 in Round 2; and 15 again in the final round. Hope to see Ben Rice in it.

MLB All-Star Game

July 14

This one will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. Worthy locals include Yankees Cam Schlittler, Rice and Cody Bellinger. Worthy Met: Juan Soto.

Dodgers at Yankees

July 17-19

First visit to the Stadium for the defending World Series champs since their Game 5 clincher in the 2024 Series when the Yanks imploded in the field. Aaron Judge (rib stress fracture) won't be playing. Shohei Ohtani will be.

Jets open training camp

July 28

Coach Aaron Glenn begins his second season, this time with Geno Smith back with the franchise that drafted him.

First Giants practice of the John Harbaugh era

July 30

Jaxson Dart won't have Malik Nabers available, but Odell Beckham Jr. is back attempting a comeback at 33, and first-round picks Arvell Reese and Sisi Mauigoa put the pads on. Will Cam Skattebo join them?

MLB trade deadline

Aug. 3

Brian Cashman will be looking for bullpen reinforcements, perhaps Rockies right-hander Antonio Senzatela. The alarming production at catcher could have Cashman on the prowl there — the Twins' Ryan Jeffers would be the prime target.

Disenchanted and pessimistic Mets fans are expecting David Stearns to be a seller, with Freddy Peralta at the top of the list of desirables for contenders who need a quality arm that has disappointed in Flushing.

Aces at Liberty

Aug. 9

In case you missed the first one.

Vikings at Giants

Aug. 15

First preseason game of the Harbaugh Era and it's at MetLife Stadium. Jameis Winston lets it rip.

Captain Judge returns

Aug. 21-ish

The exact date is impossible to know, but this isn't a terrible guess. It's the start of a 10-game homestand.

Fever at Liberty

Aug. 22

Caitlin Clark makes her return to Barclays Center.

Roger Federer returns

Aug. 25

A special celebratory night match in Arthur Ashe Stadium leading up to the U.S. Open alongside John McEnroe, Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi.

Jets vs. Giants

Aug. 28

The third and final preseason game for both teams. Perhaps the first half for Dart and Geno Smith.

Red Sox at Yankees

Aug. 28-30

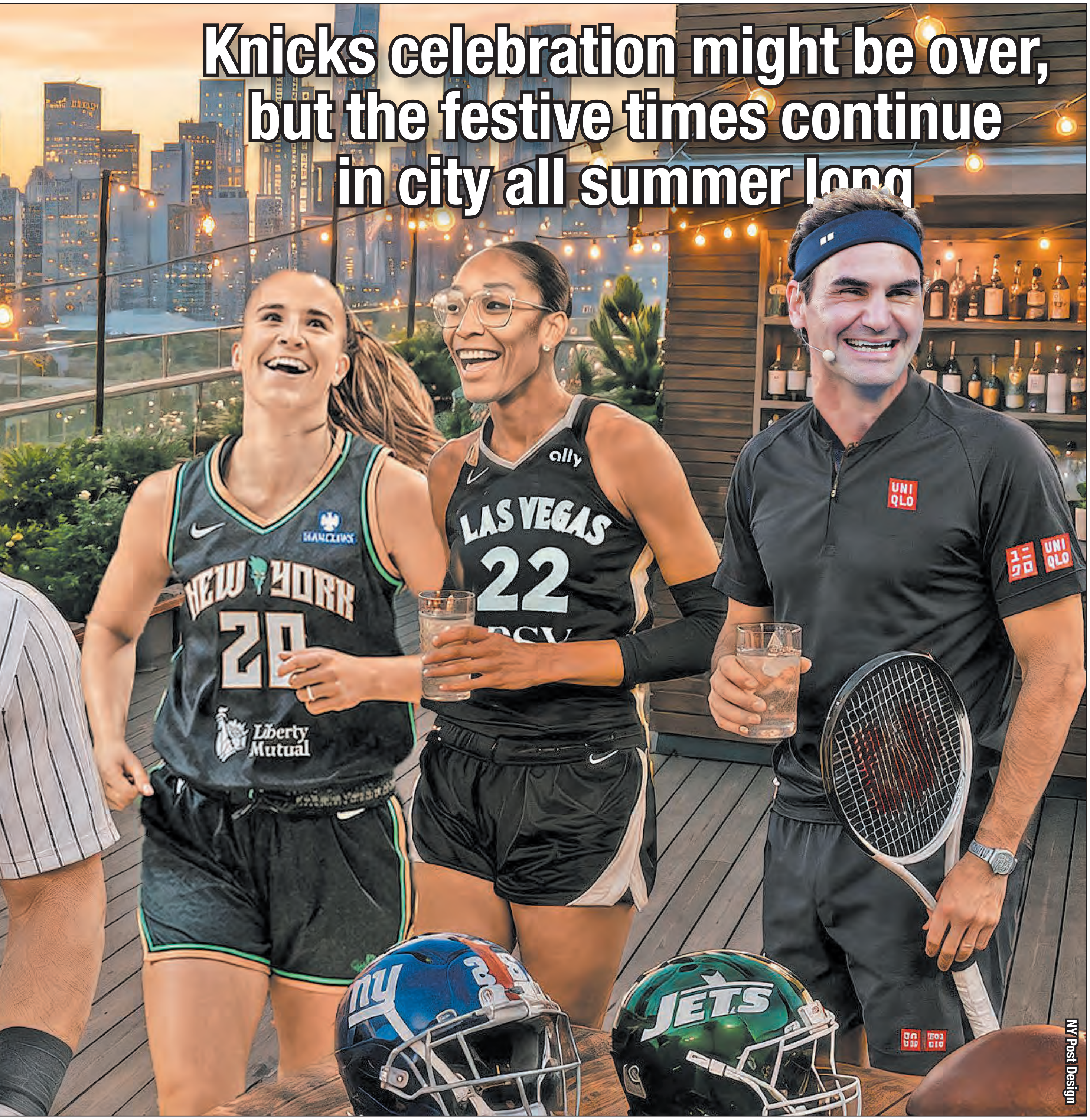
The bitter rivals slug it out during a four-game series — including a doubleheader — with the visitors eager to throw a wrench into the Bombers' postseason plans. Schlittler tormenting the Sawx the way he did last October would be fun.

U.S. Open tennis

Aug. 30-Sept. 13

Men's No. 1 Jannik Sinner will be chal-

Knicks celebration might be over, but the festive times continue in city all summer long



NY Post Design

lenged by Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz and women's No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka will have Grand Slam champ Coco Gauff to worry about.

Celebrity sightings will be plentiful: Ben Stiller and Spike Lee were there last year and have some free time before their beloved NBA champion Knicks open up training camp, and you might even see Jalen Brunson and wife Dr. Ali Marks, and Karl-Anthony Towns and Jordyn Woods, among other New York sports stars former and present.

Giants home opener

Sept. 13

The Harbaugh Era starts for real against the Cowboys on "Sunday Night Football." Giants fans don't need reminding that the Boys humiliated Daniel Jones and Brian Daboll 40-0 in the 2023 home opener n a Sunday night, or that the Giants have dropped their past three home openers. The last thing they'll want to witness is a Caleb Downs pick six.

Pete Alonso returns to Citi Field

(Sept. 14-16)

The Polar Bear will receive a warm welcome, but unless the Mets stop underachieving, Stearns will be a popular whipping boy for allowing the popular homegrown Met to leave.

NYCFC at Red Bulls

Sept. 18

The rivals will collide at Yankee Stadium. Their earlier match at Sports Illustrated Stadium resulted in a 1-1 tie. Go watch Nicolás Fernández and Julian Hall for kicks.

Jets home opener

Sept. 20

A homecoming for Smith, who was a Jet for just four years of the 15-year playoff drought. He will thank his lucky stars that Green Bay's Micah Parsons (ACL) won't make it.

See? So much to fill the void this summer between the Canyon of Heroes parade and the start of Knicks training camp in late September.

steve.serby@nypost.com

Scott buoys rotation with stellar return

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

The Mets are 13 games under .500 and have less than six weeks to convince their front office they should not sell at the trade deadline.

The season is on life support, to put it generously, but outings from Christian Scott matter even if this season ultimately will not.

METS NOTES

In his first start off the injured list, Scott showed some of the same excellent stuff that has made him a bright spot in a dark season.

The 27-year-old threw one regrettable pitch — a 3-2 fastball to Bryce Harper, Scott bemoaning turning to the four-seamer a fifth time in the at-bat — that crept over the wall in left-center in the third inning for a two-run home run and otherwise was in control.

"Really solid," interim manager Andy Green said after the 6-2 win over the Phillies at Citi Field on Saturday. "Only had so many bullets to fire today, and he was good outside of one swing from Bryce Harper."

Scott, who had not pitched in a little over two weeks because of a hip contusion, lasted 82 pitches in 4 ¹⁄₃ innings in which he let up just those two runs on three hits and two walks while striking out six.

The righty, who had missed all of last season because of Tommy John surgery, induced 17 swing-and-misses while leaning on his sweeper and four-seamer.

"I feel great," said Scott, who owns a 3.20 ERA and looks like a fixture in this rotation for years to come. "Felt like I attacked the zone pretty well for the most part. Just established my offspeed stuff early in the game and then kind of just rode the wave off of that."

➤ **Zach Thornton's** reward for an excellent start — the kind the Mets are in desperate need of — was an immediate trip back to Triple-A Syracuse.

The Mets optioned the young starting pitcher, who had held the Phillies to one run while striking out seven in six innings Friday, to create roster space for Scott.

Including Scott, the Mets — who have **Kodai Senga** pitching out of the bullpen and have traded **David Peterson** — have four starting pitchers. But they nonetheless demoted Thornton in large part because they have nine innings to cover Sunday without a true starting pitcher (**Cionel Pérez** will start) in a bullpen game that could feature Senga.

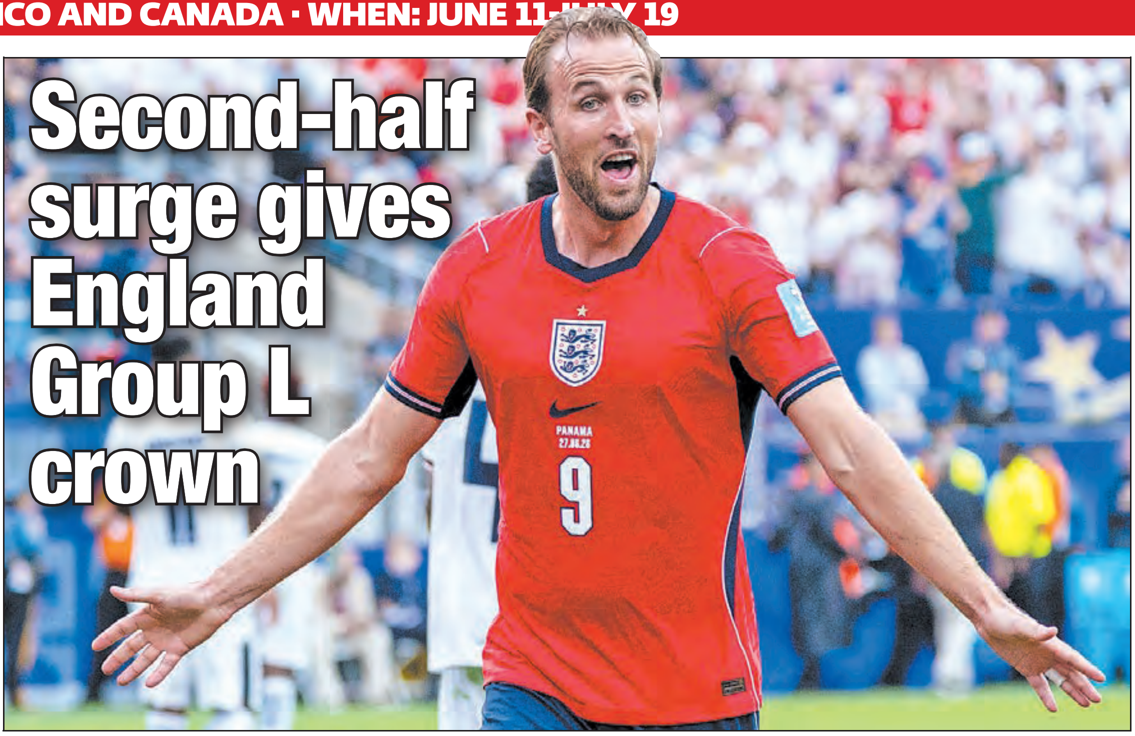
➤ **Jorge Polanco** went 0-for-3 with a strikeout in the start of another rehab assignment, one that the Mets hope will end differently than the last.

The veteran served as Syracuse's DH Saturday for the first time since June 5, when his rehab assignment was paused due to ankle soreness.

➤ Infielder **Zack Short** was outrighted to Syracuse.

PROPER 'W'

Second-half surge gives England Group L crown



KANE YOU DIG IT? England forward Harry Kane celebrates his second-half goal against Panama on Saturday at MetLife Stadium.

Corey Sipkin

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

Maybe that will calm some of the nerves of England's jittery fanbase, hoping to see the Three Lions win a World Cup for the first time in 60 years.

The English fans serenaded the players at MetLife Stadium with "Hey Jude" by the Beatles and "Wonderwall" by Oasis after a 2-0 win over Panama and that clinched first in Group L. It was a jovial scene going into the knockout stage next week, which, for a period of time Saturday, didn't seem as if it would come to fruition.

ENGLAND	**2**	**Group L**
PANAMA	**0**	

Manager Thomas Tuchel already had been hearing the second-guessing of his roster choices after England played to a scoreless draw against Ghana earlier in the week, and the pitchforks were being readied after an admittedly lackluster first half. But Jude Bellingham, one of England's best players in the tournament, helped change the narrative a bit with a flick of his leg and Harry Kane helped seal the victory four minutes later.

"It was amazing to see the fans and to hear the fans in the end of the match connected with the players," Tuchel said. "I encourage everyone to take it in at the moment, because it's very easy to get carried away with your own expectations. You expect to win the group and you expect to win that match. It's just not like this, it's hard work and sometimes you have to admit and respect just the occasion."

Perhaps fittingly, their final match of the group stage played out in a similar fashion as their World Cup opener against Croatia, with England struggling to get a rhythm going through the first 45 minutes before finally getting it together in the second half.

England had been expected to win Group L entering Saturday's match, but a sense of concern started to creep in as Croatia, also in their group, jumped out to a 1-0 lead over Ghana and could have pushed the Three Lions down to second, which would have given a tougher path in the knockout stage. Instead, England came away with a win in the match and the group, setting them up to play Congo.

The pursuit of World Cup glory has hit snags over the years.

In 2022, England made it to the quarterfinals and four years before that, England finished in fourth place. It's put plenty of pressure on Tuchel and his squad this year and created some anxiety when it comes to the club's performances since their World Cup opening win.

"It's good that we had it, because it teaches us lessons," Tuchel said after being asked about the discrepancy in performances in the group stage. "It teaches us to stay committed, to stay disciplined, to not lose belief, and to keep on knocking and knocking. ... I know that it's sometimes less spectacular to see. We know what it takes, so I know about the effort and the commitment from the team."

Bellingham broke the scoreless match in the 62nd minute when he found himself in the right spot off the corner. Battling in front of the net for position, he managed to get a flick of his foot on the ball sent in by Bukayo Saka for England's first goal.

Bellingham again came through for England, this time setting up Kane for the brilliant header in front of the net to make it a two-goal game and all but seal things.

England will head into the knockout stage dinged up, which had already led to some concerns. Reece James missed Saturday's game with a hamstring issue and then Jarell Quansah, who took his place at right back, left the victory with a twisted ankle, leaving England thin at right back for their round of 32 matchup next week.

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Like magic, Kane now nation's all-time leader

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

The witch doctor's spell certainly seemed to have been lifted from England star Harry Kane on Saturday evening as he scored the Three Lions' second goal against Panama in a 2-0 win and took his place as the national team's all-time leading scorer at the World Cup.

Kane scored his 11th goal in the World Cup in the 67th minute Saturday after he impressively headed a ball sent into the box by Jude Bellingham. The Bayern Munich striker surpassed Gary Lineker, who previously held the record with 10 goals that he scored between the 1986 and 1990 World Cups.

"It is a proud one for sure," Kane said to the BBC after the match. "I spoke before the tournament about the World Cup being the biggest competition we play as professional footballers, so to get to 11 goals is a proud feeling."

Kane already has been off to a fast start during this year's tournament, scoring twice against Croatia during the first match of the World Cup and then again Saturday. There was so much concern about Kane's scoring prowess that a Ghanaian witch doctor said he would put a spell on the England star to keep him from scoring.

He now sits one goal behind soccer legend Pelé on the list of all-time goal scorers at the World Cup and is tied with another pair of greats, Jürgen Klinsmann and Sandor Kocsis.

"For me, he's the best England player of all time," Jude Bellingham, who scored England's first goal against Panama, said. "He's the one who showed up more than anyone, more than any England player. It's quite easy to play with him, in all honesty. He's at a level at the minute that's just incredible. You don't doubt him at all in terms of whether he's involved, whether he's not. You know he's going to make a difference in the game."

Kane has 82 international goals in his time suiting up for England in 116 matches, and was the Golden Boot winner during the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

He remains in the running for the honor this year behind Lionel Messi's five goals and Kylian Mbappé, Erling Haaland, Ousmane Dembélé and Vinícius Júnior's four.

"Harry is in an amazing state of mind, physically as well," England manager Thomas Tuchel said. "He is hungry to go all the way in this World Cup, and he's not satisfied."

Messi makes history

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Lionel Messi became the first player to score in seven consecutive World Cup games while extending his all-time scoring record with his 19th goal in Argentina's group stage finale against Jordan on Saturday night in Arlington, Texas.

ROUNDUP

Messi scored on a free kick after being taken down just outside the penalty box in the 80th minute. The low kick, just above the grass surface, split two Jordan defenders into the left corner of the net.

Croatia 2, Ghana 1

In Philadelphia, Croatia earned a spot in the World Cup knockout round, getting goals from Nikola Vlašic and Luka Sucic to beat Ghana. Ghana had already clinched a spot in the round of 32 for the first time since 2010.

Colombia 0, Portugal 0

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Colombia finished as the Group K winner after a scoreless draw between teams that already had secured spots in the knockout stage beforehand.

Colombia next will play Ghana. Portugal, which entered the expanded 48-team tournament as a favorite, will face Croatia as the Group K runner-up.

Congo 3, Uzbekistan 1

In Atlanta, Congo rallied to advance to the knockout stage for the first time. Two second-half goals from Yoane Wissa and one from Fiston Mayele sealed the win.

Austria 3, Algeria 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Austria and Algeria played to a thrilling draw in what amounted to a win-win result in their World Cup group-stage finale, allowing both to advance to the knockout round while eliminating Iran from the tournament.

Mike Vaccaro

OPEN MIKE

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THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

SOMETIMES you just have to turn the laptop over to the people. Mets fans responded in droves to my Friday column imploring Steve Cohen to do something (and that included Cohen, apparently, who approved the termination of Carlos Mendoza a few hours later).

He wasn't alone. Here's a sampling:

Phil MacDonald: "Blame David Stearns & Steve Cohen. I never understand why GMs bring in players with injury histories and the Mets brought in many. ... Jorge Polanco, Luis Robert [Jr.], Marcus Semien and Bo Bichette all have had stints on the DL the last few years. And on top of that, they are asked to play new positions."

Bill Quigley: "We should forget chanting Pete [Alonso] and start with, 'Let's fire Stearns.' Instead of our beloved 'Let's go, Mets!' "

Vin Ciavatta: "One day, we Mets fans will get what the Knicks fans just had. I just hope I'm young enough to enjoy it."

Mike Calmenson: "When I think about how the Mets lost over 200 RBIs just from Alonso and Nimmo, I get aggravated. Steve Cohen is a tremendous disappointment."

Rich Kelly: "Like many Mets fans, I called it back in April — dead skunks in the middle of the road. The Stearns press conference was pitiful."

Chad Hunt: "As a Mets fan since inception, I suspect I have a right to be angry. I'm as close to apathetic as one can be without admitting to apathy. I still care. I want to see a World Series banner."

Mike Levine: "When I lived in Brooklyn I was obviously very unhappy when O'Malley relocated the Dodgers to Los Angeles, but what Cohen has permitted Stearns to do is much worse and more despicable and reprehensible."

Dennis Daly: "From 1962-67 I was conditioned to seeing the Mets losing 100 games a season. That same feeling has returned with this organization."

FIRE STEARNS

Imagn Images

Readers weigh in on sorry state of Mets

Michael Weiss: "I'm conditioned to watch Mets games now to see what [Carson] Benge and [A.J.] Ewing do each at bat. That's what gets me through the games."

Stephen Plotkin: "They spent all that money and Cohen has to blame only one person. Fans will rejoice if Stearns is fired."

Mark Donohue: "Having a team that's out of it by June ruins a part of summer."

Robert Lewis: "When players don't perform as a computer says they should, why is that always the manager's fault?"

Bob LaRosa: "Instead of trying to get everything perfect on the first try, you build, test, learn and adjust. You gotta believe."

Jack Doherty: "Sixty years, that's how long I've been a fan. I am done until they fire Stearns."

Robert Glick: "Finally some accountability, but in reality, Stearns is the guy that had to go."

Jim Moon: "The seat should be extremely warm for Stearns since it's his team that is producing a stench in Flushing. I like Carlos [Mendoza] and kind of glad he doesn't have to answer for this mess of a roster he didn't create."

Tom DeMaria: "I think the only way major changes take place is all fans have to unite and boycott a game or two."

Karol Tasnady: "I say Cohen doesn't know a thing about teamwork. The [Juan] Soto contract which included a sky box and saying the Mets would never have a team captain, which demoralized his shortstop and team leader."

Stephen Mindnich: "Welcome to the Red Wedding, Mets style. They just fired the waiter because the food was poorly cooked."

Neil Ptashnik: "This Mets team is as bad as the late '70s teams. Only difference the average fan could afford to go to the games in the '70s."

Charlie Tuozzolo: "Well I guess the fun time writing the Knicks articles is over. Now back to the nit and gritty of the remains of the Mets dumpster fire."

Vinny Mooney: They may have to update the 'Worst Team Money Can Buy.' "

Neil Gevirtz: "You took every Mets fans' feelings and put them in one perfect article."

Joe Samuelson: "Five years old in 1962. This has been the worst and most frustrating Mets season."

Jerry Jacobs: "As Rhett Butler would say, 'Frankly Steve Cohen, I don't give a damn.' "

(We could've gone on for three more pages ...)

VAC'S WHACKS

KENNY Klein was already known as the one of the best SIDs ever during a long run at Louisville. These past few years he joined his old partner, **Rick Pitino**, and helped turn St. John's games into models for how to act like a big-time program in the big town. Godspeed to one of the great gentlemen of sports.

➤ **Linda Cohn** has been a constant at ESPN for so long — constant presence on "SportsCenter," constant pro's pro — it's hard to remember what ESPN looked like before she arrived in 1992. Here's to a prosperous retirement, and for the Rangers and Giants (and maybe the Mets?) to make the coming years easy on her.

➤ I was today years old when I learned that until Shea Stadium opened in 1964, starting pitchers recovered the regular bullpen and did their warmups in front of the dugout. **Jack Fisher**, on April 17, 1964, became the first. He was at Citi Field on Saturday. Fisher, Now 87, lost 24 games for the '65 Mets but says, "For me the 24 losses are a badge of honor. It showed that **Casey** [**Stengel**] had enough faith to keep running me out there all the time."

➤ Today we say goodbye to Aqueduct Racetrack after 132 years. The great **Pete Axthelm** once said when he had the choice between going to law school or to the Big A, it was no contest. That was a win for brilliant writing. Today is a loss for New York City.

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Vito Pesce: It is an absolute shame what the WNBA is doing to Caitlin Clark. She saved that league, without her they would have sunk into the mud, and for the league not to put a stop to it is very sad.

Vac: *Whoever previously had the title of "worst pro sports league commissioner ever" can rest easy for as long as Cathy Engelbert has a job.*

Patrick Passaretti: This will not stop until Clark pulls a Rudy Tomjanovich.

Vac: *Or a Kermit Washington, because what Alyssa Thomas did to her the other night was almost begging for a Kermit.*

@JoeStatMan: June 24, was the 50th anniversary of Eastern Airlines Flight 66 crashing at JFK, one of the first wind shear accidents that claimed 113 lives. Among the dead Wendell Ladner of the New York Nets then.

Vac: *I remember that as the first time 8-year-old me ever cried about the death of a stranger. I loved watching Ladner play.*

John Stanolevich: Saw your Pat Cummings name-drop about Knicks loyalty. How about Kenny "Sky" Walker, Lonnie Shelton and the big trade for Bob McAdoo?

Vac: *I'll see you and raise you Glen Gondrezick, Ken "the Animal" Bannister and Ticky Burden.*

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT MVACCARO@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

RIGHT-HAND MAN: Assistant Jesús Pérez has followed coach Mauricio Pochettino from Spain to England and France, and now the United States, making the coach's vision work and bringing teams together.

Getty Images (2)

'GLUE GUY'

Behind coach Pochettino, assistant Pérez is loyal deputy who makes it all just work

Mark Cannizzaro

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. — Jesús Pérez didn't want to do this interview.

Not because he's a bad guy, but because the last thing he does in life is seek out attention.

Pérez is a background guy.

"I normally refuse interviews," Pérez said as he settled into a chair at a table overlooking the Pacific Ocean at Laguna Niguel Ritz Carlton, the U.S. team hotel. "I don't like to talk about myself. Today, they asked me and I said, 'OK.' "

It was actually U.S. head coach Mauricio Pochettino who first gave his blessing when The Post requested to speak to Pérez. With the U.S. having surged into the Round of 32 at this home World Cup, Pochettino *wanted* Pérez to do this interview because he wants Pérez to be recognized.

The 54-year-old Pérez has been with Pochettino since the colorful Argentine hired him as an analyst when he was coaching Espanyol in Spain in 2010, at a time when Pérez said he was seriously contemplating leaving the sport he loves due to a health scare and burnout.

"He changed my life completely," Pérez said. "I always tell him that and he laughs, but he rescued me for football. In the summer of 2010, I was wondering if it was all worth it. I thought about leaving coaching, leaving the game. That's why I'm so grateful. Otherwise, I don't know what I'd be doing right now."

Pérez quickly became much more than an analyst for Pochettino. Now, as his top assistant coach, he is everything to Pochettino. Their 16-year relationship is as unique as it is powerful. They are not merely co-workers, they are family.

Pérez might be the most ego-less human being I've ever interviewed in some 40 years in the business.

"I don't work for myself, I work for him," Pérez said. "I don't try to watch the game as Jesus. I try to watch the game the way Mauricio watches it — and then provide support. I always try to be in a position to be useful to him. I worked before with great coaches and great ex-players, and, as a human being, Mauricio is just special."

The feeling is beyond mutual.

"The coach, or the person, that I am is a lot of credit to him," Pochettino said with emotion evident in his voice. "He is an unbelievable gift that life put in front of me. I took the advantage to embrace him and bring him with me very early, and he has been an important [part of my] life.

"He is more than a colleague. He is my friend, and he is my family. And that is more important than the work we do together."

Pochettino doesn't do anything as it pertains to USMNT without consulting Pérez, who's literally so close to him physically at all times, he is his shadow.

"He's an extension of Mauricio," veteran U.S. defender and team captain Tim Ream told The Post. "He is Mauricio's eyes and ears. He's the one that connects every single department and connects the players with every single department. He sees everything, he knows everything.

"When we talk about 'glue guys,' I think 'glue guy' is probably not a positive enough descriptor. He's got his hands on everything. When you have that type of trust between a manager and his No. 2, it allows for such an ease of communication, and that's so important."

U.S. defender Mark McKenzie called Pérez someone who is "on the pitch with us for nearly every drill, with us in pre-activation, with us in the locker room explaining the training sessions and what we're trying to accomplish on the day."

"He also brings a different energy off the pitch — in the meal rooms, laughing and joking with the guys," McKenzie continued. "He's been with Mauricio for some time now. They have a really deep connection. It's also nice when you have two guys who have shared a lot of experiences together and bring that level of competition, that winner's mentality, to each and every day."

When I asked Pérez what his official title is, he said, "I'm a generalist," adding, "I know a little bit of everything."

"What I try to bring is togetherness, from human relationships and consistency in terms of planning, in terms of a strategic way of operating across all departments. I try to provide Mauricio with a holistic vision about the game — analysis, planning, coaching, post-match and training analysis. We have people on our coaching staff in charge of very specific roles.

"I understand a little bit of everything, and can set the basics in every area and connect Mauricio with those departments and provide his vision to everyone."

Pérez joked, "I spend more time with Mauricio than with my family, probably."

Then he turned serious.

"I am in this position because he wants me to be," Pérez said. "I don't think I deserve to be here. I'm grateful for all the experiences."

In many ways, Pérez is the polar opposite to Pochettino, a charismatic and colorful former player for Argentina. Pérez never played soccer after the high-school level, and is so low-key he prefers to work in the shadows.

How has Pérez lasted 16 years with one head coach in a sport where the norm for assistant coaches is living a very transient existence, going from club to club, city to city?

"He had patience with me, because all of us make mistakes," Pérez said. "He's very loyal to the coaching staff — not just me, all of them. He prefers to help us improve and forgive us when we make mis-

takes rather than make changes."

Surely, with the experience and success he's had with Pochettino, coaching with him at Southampton, Tottenham and Chelsea in the Premier League and Paris Saint-Germain in France, Pérez would be a sought-after manager for a top club.

Yet he insists he has no desire to leave Pochettino.

"I don't have a desire to be on the front line, because I have so much autonomy — so much that sometimes even Mauricio doesn't ask, because we've been together so long," Pérez said. "I will think about that position [as manager one day] if one day Mauricio says he's not coaching anymore ... or he doesn't want me with him. That will be the moment I need to look inside myself and ask, 'What's next?' Meanwhile, I'm here.

"My satisfaction is complete. What brings me more joy after 16 years is not winning matches or trophies, it's seeing Mauricio performing at his best. When I see him happy and performing, that's my greatest joy."

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Balogun finds footing as fish out of water

By ETHAN SEARS

IRVINE, Calif. — Folarin Balogun, eligible to play for the U.S. national team due to birthright citizenship, has spent just about his entire life in Europe. So when he sees something here in the States that is, let's say, typical, he reacts in the same way as many tourists seeing America for the first time during the World Cup.

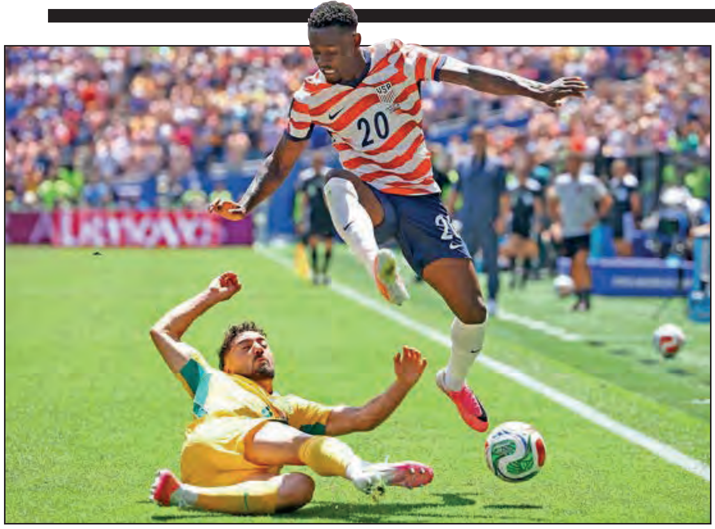
"He says America's a simulation quite often," Mark McKenzie said. "We'll be driving down the road and he'll see something and be like, 'What is that? Why is an individual dressed like that or why are they throwing a sign up in the air on the corner? What is Bojangles?' It's stuff like that where he's like, 'Bro, America, what is going on?' "

Unlike those tourists, Balogun has spent time in the States before. But the star striker, one of a handful of starters on the American team who grew up in Europe and chose to play for the U.S. — Malik Tillman, Sergiño Dest and Antonee Robinson being the others — can still see the country with fresh eyes.

For example, when John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" played over the speakers after the U.S. completed a 2-0 win over Australia, Balogun didn't know it.

"He was like, this is interesting," Chris Richards said. "I think even him hearing the coaching staff listening to country music, he's dumbfounded by that."

Ditto for portion sizes at restaurants, and some of the chain restaurant staples around the country. extended and geographically diverse nature of a World Cup camp that's visited New York, Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle, with the next stop in the Bay Area for the round of 32 match against Bosnia and Herzegovina, lends itself to a different sort of appreciation too.



STRIKE FORCE: Despite some cultural differences, Folarin Balogun has hit the ground running with his American teammates. AP

"I think he still has this notion that he says Americans aren't real," Richards joked. "There's some stuff that we do that doesn't fly back in London. So it's pretty cool, 'cause it takes a lot to learn and especially when you're only here for a few weeks at a time. It's been cool, being able to see different pockets of America."

Balogun's backstory — he was born in Brooklyn and thus eligible to play for the USMNT only because his mom was stopped from boarding a plane back to Europe while heavily pregnant — along with his play through the group stage, has raised his profile immensely.

Though he sat out the group-stage finale against Turkey after picking up a yellow card, Balogun scored twice against Paraguay and created two own goals between that game and the Australia win. He's likely to earn a move from his current club, Ligue 1's AS Monaco, according to The Athletic, and a striker position that was long a deficiency for the USMNT has become a strength, thanks largely to his decision to represent his nation of birth.

Asked to describe facing Balogun's shot last week, goalkeeper Matt Freese held up his hands, covered in tape, and said, "It's strong."

"Obviously he's a striker who's very versatile," said McKenzie, who faces Balogun regularly at the club level in France. "He can hurt you on the dribble, hurt you in behind, he's a clinical finisher."

Christian Pulisic simply called him "a killer."

Balogun himself seems bemused that his story has gotten so much attention. He's soft-spoken while projecting confidence, and in the grand tradition of the country, he carries a big stick.

"I think the team has always been diverse. No different from America," Balogun said. "An extremely diverse place. I think the most important thing for us is to stay focused on what we're doing. We're here to play football, we're here to compete at the highest level, we're here to make the country proud. I think if we do it at the level I know we can, we'll inspire the nation."

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Stakes suddenly sky-high in knockouts

By ETHAN SEARS

USMNT NOTES

IRVINE, Calif. — It's a whole new tournament now.

The U.S. national team has checked off boxes at the World Cup so far, topping its group and capturing the attention of the country. But that won't stop the Americans' tournament from being labeled a crushing disappointment if they can't win a knockout game for the first time since 2002 when they face Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday in Santa Clara, Calif.

Traditionally the round of 16, where the U.S. lost to Ghana in 2010, Belgium in 2014 and the Netherlands in 2022, has been its stumbling point, but the round of 32, introduced for the first time this year, adds another hurdle. Belgium, after dramatically topping Group G on Friday night, will be a potential Round of 16 opponent again, should it get past either South Korea or Senegal, but after it put forth an unconvincing group stage, the U.S. has a navigable path to the quarterfinal.

That is, if Mauricio Pochettino's side can replicate its performance from the first two group games against better opponents under win-or-go-home pressure.

"For us, we know they're a young, talented and technical team," Alex Freeman said of Bosnia, which went 1-1-1 to finish third in Group B. "They're very direct, just like us. In their past games, they've had talented youngsters — I've played with some of their players at youth level, so I know these guys are technical. They're very aggressive as well.

"We're going against something that's somewhat similar to us in some ways, but also different. Maybe they're more direct with long balls. We've got to go over the film and see exactly what they like to do."

The margin for error wasn't exactly high in the group stage, at least until the Turkey game that carried no real implications. Now, every single pass, every tackle, every movement and moment can be the difference between moving on or going home.

"We're exactly where we expected ourselves to be, where we want to be," captain Tim Ream said. "Now it's, you have to play the same way as you did the first two games. Even in moments [against Turkey], you have to take that intensity and get on top of teams early and you ride that through the knockouts."

➤ Midfielder **Cristian Roldan** said after the Turkey game he "was close" to being ready to return from a quad injury.

"I expect myself in the next couple of days to be fully fit and ready to go," he said.

The U.S. returns to full training Sunday.

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

Mikel BROWN Jr.

Mikel Brown Jr., whom the Nets selected with the sixth overall pick in the 2026 NBA Draft, takes his first shot at Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: You talk about chasing greatness. What does that entail?
A: Chasing greatness is just the ability to max out my potential and understand what I'm capable of and hit that goal by any means necessary.

Q: What do you think you're capable of?
A: Being one of the all-time greats.

Q: People say you have the it factor. What is your it factor?
A: I feel like there's nothing that I can't do on the court.

Q: Your general manager (Sean Marks) said that you have a chip on your shoulder, tell me why.
A: Just because at the end of the day there's people selected over me. So that just drives me every single day. I'm self-driven to be the best version of myself. So that means I have a chip on my shoulder wherever I go.

Q: You're going to have a natural rivalry with Darius Acuff. What are your thoughts on that?
A: Basketball nowadays, that rivalry brings along a lot of fans, and more people want to watch and it's competitive. We know we're going to see each other for the rest of our lives, so buckle up.

Q: I read one opinion that called you one of the bigger risk-reward prospects in the draft.
A: I'm not a risk just because I know night in and night out what I can bring to a team.

Q: What did your father tell you and what did you tell him after you were drafted by the Nets?
A: We said, 'What are they going to say now?' Just because when it comes people said I was too small, or I wouldn't make it. So just beating the odds, I think me and him really took an embrace on.

Q: How much did it piss you off hearing that before your growth spurt?
A: It's motivation. When people put more wood in the fire, it's another log, that's how I look at it, it's another log in the fire to go out and compete.

Q: When your name was announced by the commissioner, what did you say to your mother when you hugged her?
A: I said, 'I told you!'

Q: How long have you been telling her?
A: (Laugh) I've been telling her for ever since I started this game.

Q: How old were you?
A: Three years old.

Q: Describe your on-court mentality.
A: Passionate, competitive, me being a dawg and also just me being able to create for others, like being a connector as well.

Q: I'm getting the feeling that you see yourself as a killer or an assassin on the court? Am I right?
A: Yes.

Q: How so?
A: The people that I'm going to be going up against for the rest of my life, my goal is to win every single battle, and every single matchup.

Q: Why don't you feel pressure?
A: Because I hold myself to a certain expectation that I expect to hit every single time just because I know how much work I've put in.

Q: If you could build the perfect point guard, what would you take from Mikel Brown Jr.?
A: We would take his ability to create scoring opportunities for himself and others.

Q: What one area do you think you need to improve on?
A: Every single aspect of my game.

Q: Describe your range for me.
A: Shoot — as soon as I step past half-court.

Q: On a scale of 1-10, what grade do you give yourself for vision?
A: I'll say like an 8 as of right now. I definitely think that I have arguably, if not the best vision in this draft class, but I also do think that there's still a lot of things I can clean up as well.

Q: Your defense on a scale of 1-10.
A: I'll say a 7. I really do think that I can guard at a high level. It's just about me bringing that consistently.

Q: 1-10, instincts.
A: 10. I play off of instincts naturally.

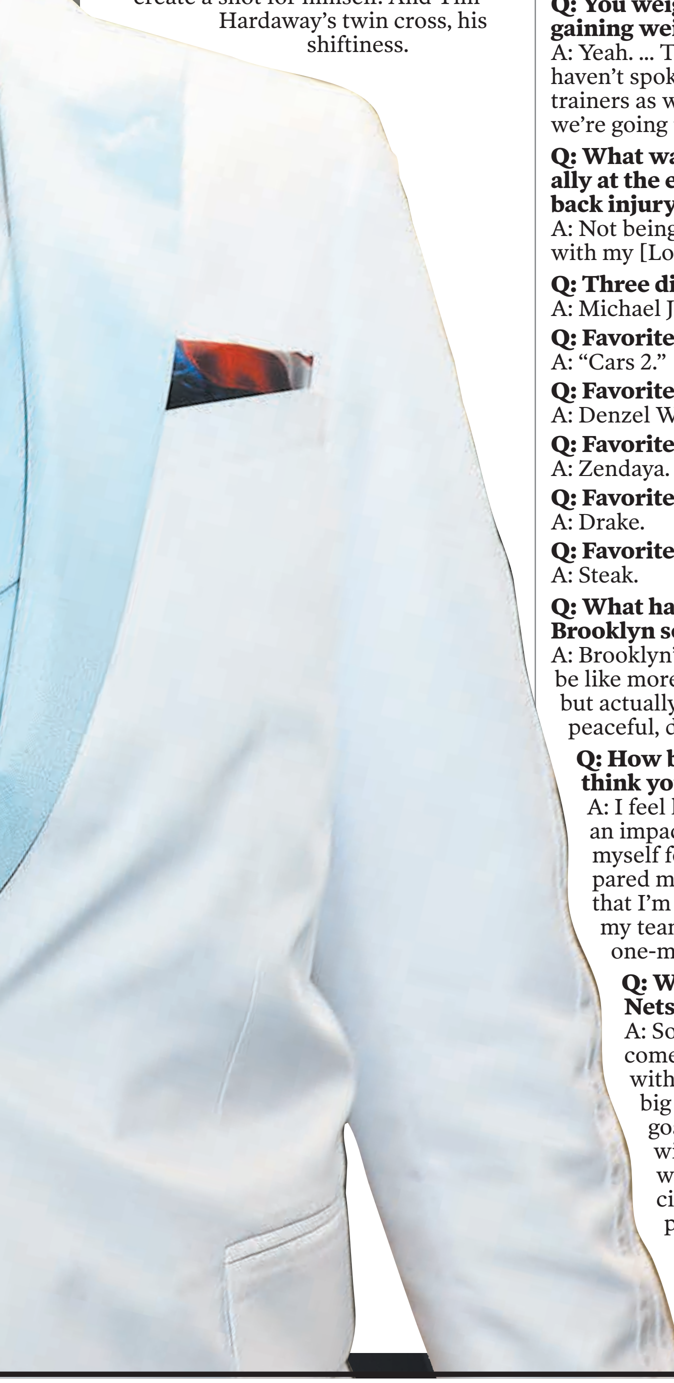
Q: How is your hesi-pull?
A: (Laugh). A hesi-pull is definitely lethal. I could definitely sell it and get it off quick, so ...

Q: How would you describe your leadership style?
A: Lead by example and also lead by voice, just making sure my teammates are doing what they're supposed to be doing, and holding them to a standard that I know they can hit.

Q: Why would I enjoy playing with you?
A: Just because I'm always for my teammates, I'm always about making other guys better around me, putting them in the right positions to whether that's score, defensively, just constantly communicating with them. And I also think I'm a great teammate as well, very personable, I want to get to know you because that transmits to on the court as well so now you got the true trust in you that you know what you're doing.

Q: Do you talk trash?
A: A little bit. Not a lot.

Getty Images



Q: Does it get you going when others talk trash to you?
A: Yeah, yeah, yeah. It gets me going for sure.

Q: What happens?
A: I black out (laugh).

Q: Who are some of the guards you're looking forward to guarding?
A: Everybody. I'm looking forward to guarding everybody.

Q: Do you study tapes of old-time point guards?
A: Like '90s?

Q: '90s, '80s, even before that?
A: A little bit, a little bit, a little bit. Like Mark Price, I feel like he was the one that created the split screen. ... Tim Hardaway, Allen Iverson, Isiah Thomas.

Q: Do you take bits and pieces from each of them?
A: Yes I do, yup, yup. Yes I do.

Q: Which one of those have you taken the biggest piece from?
A: Isiah Thomas' defense, Mark Price's ability to split the ball screen when they jump, Allen Iverson's ability to create a shot for himself. And Tim Hardaway's twin cross, his shiftiness.

Q: How much work do you put in being a student of the game?
A: Hours, hours, nights, early mornings, days, years. ... I mean, I'm a savant when it comes to that stuff.

Q: Why do you like the big stage, the bright lights and the big games?
A: Just because I know much work I put in to get to that point and to be able to play on that stage.

Q: What have you learned about your new head coach Jordi Fernández?
A: Just a great guy, he's a player's coach. Hard worker, loves his family, he's a big family guy. He actually reached out to me recently because I went to go watch my sister play and he asked me how my sister did and stuff like that. ... That's a coach you really want to play hard for.

Q: What do you know about Julius Randle as a player?
A: He's a great player. He's won at this level, so to be able to pick his brain and talk to him, you can tell that he's a good person and a great guy to be around, to learn from him and ask him his experiences of some of the greats that he's played with.

Q: You weigh 190. Do you plan on gaining weight?
A: Yeah. ... That's something that I haven't spoken with the staff yet and the trainers as well. That's something that we're going to talk about soon.

Q: What was the low point emotionally at the end of last year with your back injury.
A: Not being able to play and compete with my [Louisville] teammates.

Q: Three dinner guests?
A: Michael Jackson, Kobe Bryant, Jay-Z.

Q: Favorite movie?
A: "Cars 2."

Q: Favorite actor?
A: Denzel Washington.

Q: Favorite actress?
A: Zendaya.

Q: Favorite entertainer?
A: Drake.

Q: Favorite meal?
A: Steak.

Q: What have you learned about Brooklyn so far?
A: Brooklyn's great. I thought it would be like more hectic like New York City, but actually Brooklyn is very chill, peaceful, definitely calm.

Q: How big of an impact do you think you can make this season?
A: I feel like I can come in and make an impact from Day 1. I've prepared myself for this moment, I've prepared myself to be in this situation that I'm in, and also I'm feeding off my teammates as well, it ain't no one-man show.

Q: What is your message to Nets fans?
A: Somebody that's going to come to work every single day with a hard hat on, great attitude, big mentality ... as a team our goal is to try to bring back that winning culture and bring a world championship to that city. We know how much pride those people take in being from Brooklyn, so that pride will not be taken for granted, and we have a chip on our shoulder.

Struggling Rice in 2-for-23 funk

YANKS NOTES

By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — Ben Rice has spent most of the season looking like an MVP candidate.

But the past six games have been much more pedestrian, magnified by the rest of the Yankees offense going through a cold stretch with him.

Coming off a breather Friday, the slugging first baseman went 0-for-4 in Saturday's 4-1 loss to the Red Sox. He is batting just 2-for-23 with a .174 OPS over his past six games, of which the Yankees have lost four.

"No doubt he's grinding a little bit right now," manager Aaron Boone said. "But that's part of it, man. Even the guys that are going to the All-Star Game and are in the MVP conversations, there's going to be weeks where it's not easy, where you go through it a little bit.

"He'll be fine, he'll get through that. Hopefully start getting it going [Sunday]."

To be clear, Rice is far from alone in having a rough week. But it is noticeable because of how impactful he has been for most of the season — he finished Saturday batting .276 with a .940 OPS — with this marking the quietest stretch of his season so far.

It comes during a week in which the Yankees have faced a heavy dose of lefty starters — including each of the past four games, with Red Sox southpaw Jake Bennett holding him down Saturday.

"I think [Bennett] executed pretty well against him to give him some problems," Boone said.

➤ There's still no timetable for the Yankees to get their two biggest bats back from the injured list in **Aaron Judge** and **Giancarlo Stanton**, but two others should be back within the next week.

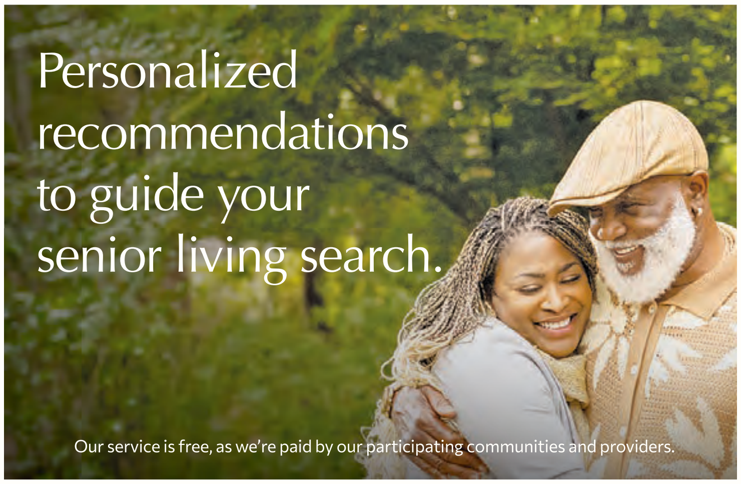
Trent Grisham and **Ryan McMahon** are expected to come off the injured list during the upcoming homestand that begins Monday.

Grisham, coming back from a right hamstring strain, is set to play in at least one rehab game, likely Tuesday (the minor leagues are off Mondays), before potentially returning. He was one of the Yankees' hottest hitters before he got hurt, but his return should also help defensively, as his presence in center field allows Boone to put other players where they are best defensively.

"I think he settles things a lot," Boone said.

McMahon, meanwhile, is first eligible to be activated Thursday, an off-day, meaning he should be back for Friday's series opener against the Twins. After being diagnosed with a peritonsillar abscess Wednesday, he was prescribed a few days of rest.

➤ **Max Schuemann** crushed his first home run as a Yankee in the fifth inning, a 412-foot blast off Bennett that represented the team's only run of the day. Schuemann was starting in center field.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"Any chance you'll switch with the old man so I can watch an NBA Finals game in that seat?" She agrees. Who can tell the vagaries of karma and juju, after all? The other seat didn't have any.

10:09 p.m.: Mike Brown isn't calling it a best of three just yet. "Let's get it to around 15 to 17 going into the fourth, and if we do, we'll give ourselves a chance," he tells the Knicks back in the locker room.

10:21 p.m.: Second half starts. Knicks ball.

10:23 p.m.: Stephon Castle is called for a charge. It's his fourth foul. The crowd, looking for any reason to feel good, feels *great* about this.

10:24 p.m.: That respite lasts a minute. De'Aaron Fox splashes a 16-footer. It's Spurs 81, Knicks 52.

10:25 p.m.: David, sitting next to McEnroe, says, "At what point do we just beat the rush out of here?" McEnroe shakes his head. "Not yet." There's still almost 22 minutes left to play.

10:27 p.m.: And at least the Knicks fans have this. Wembanyama hits KAT flush in the face with an elbow. KAT drops like he's been shot, and Wemby pats him on the backside, a brief burst of humanity from the Alien. Flagrant 1. The Garden erupts because ... well, why not?

10:39 p.m.: Wait ... what's happening here? KAT makes his freebies. OG Anunoby dunks off a feed from Hart. Brunson makes a 3. Hart makes a 3. It's a 13-0 Knicks run. It's 81-65 now. Johnson calls time, but it takes a second for Zerba to grant it because he can't hear it.

10:40 p.m.: For the first time: *"LET'S! GO!! KNICKS!!!"*

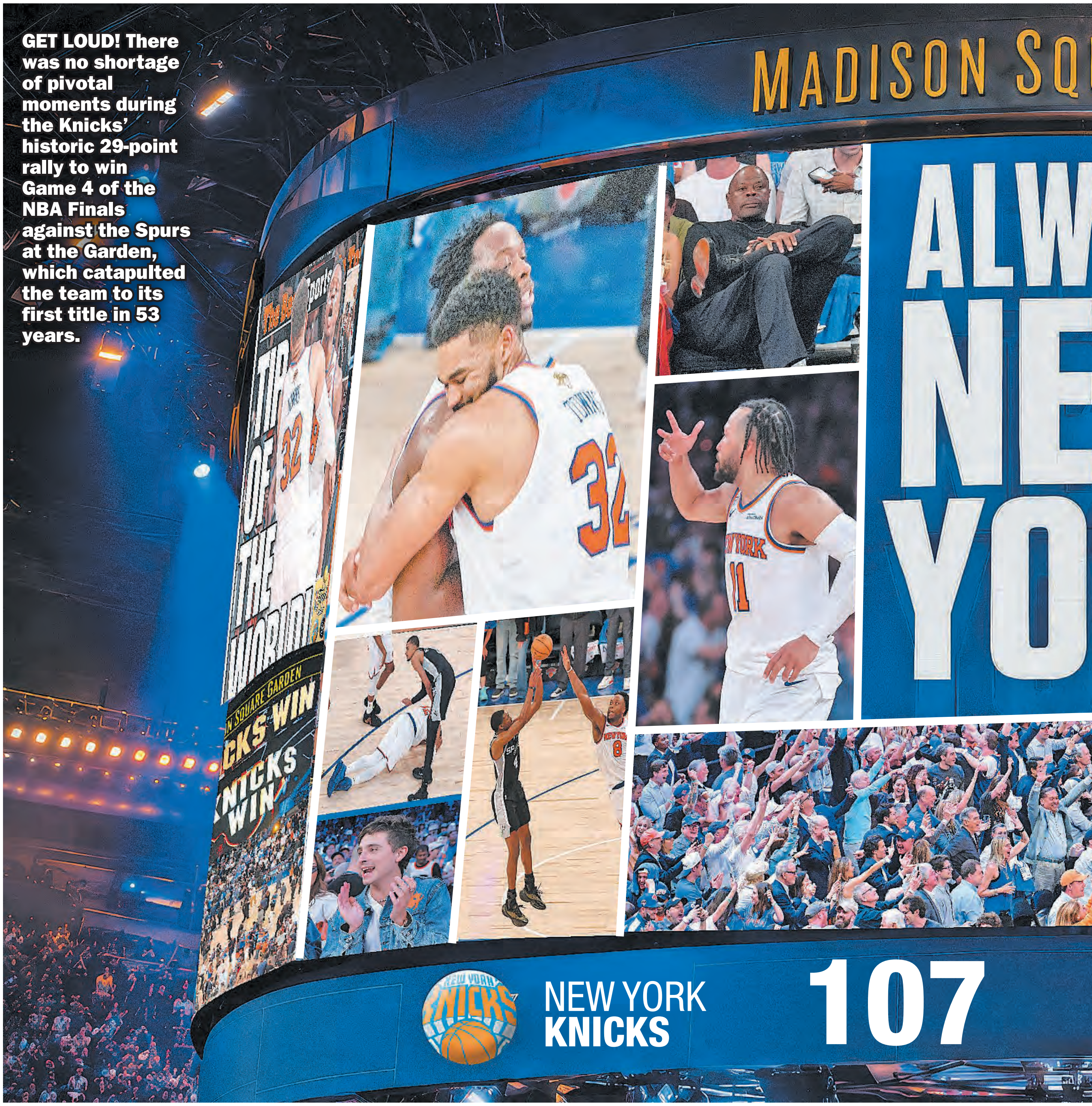
10:41 p.m.: The time has arrived for Michael Clark to do his part. The deficit has gone from 29 to 16 with him holding his Blue Moon (in the large souvenir Knicks cup) in his right hand. He vows two things: 1) that cup will not leave his right hand again; 2) he will nurse this lucky beer to the very end, too. No re-ups.

10:42 p.m.: With his left hand, Clark texts his friend, who used his other ticket and is off getting his own fresh beer, to stay exactly where he is until further notice. His friend is standing in an aisle and stops. An usher tells him he has to go. Clark's friend explains to the usher: "I need to stay here while we have the momentum." The usher nods, understands completely. Lets him be.

10:48 p.m.: Long before the rest of the Garden could sense what was happening, Ron Harper did. Harper played 1,131 games in the NBA, saw it all, and knows when a game has flipped. "All we have to do is keep playing our game," he says, "and instead what do we do? We keep shooting 3s. And missing them. Eight in a row." He doesn't share with his Knick-fan neighbors what he knows in his heart: The worm has officially turned.

10:52 p.m.: End of the third. It's 90-75. *"Let's get it to around 15 to 17 going into the fourth ... if we do, we'll give ourselves a chance,"* Brown had said. And here they are.

10:53 p.m.: From his new seats, Eddie Burns turns to his son, Finn, asks, "What do you think?" Finn gives a hopeful look. Those looks are everywhere now.



GET LOUD! There was no shortage of pivotal moments during the Knicks' historic 29-point rally to win Game 4 of the NBA Finals against the Spurs at the Garden, which catapulted the team to its first title in 53 years.

10:54 p.m.: The usher tells Michael Clark's friend: "You have to go back now." But he's done his part. The comeback has begun.

11:05 p.m.: The comeback has stalled. Wembanyama makes it 95-75 with 9:23 left. The algorithms at every prediction market reach the same conclusion in this moment: The Knicks now have a 0.4 percent chance to win the game.

11:06 p.m.: The columnist for the New York Post agrees. He opens his laptop and begins to type furiously, needing to file within a minute of game's end to make the second edition. "Sometimes," he writes, "hope isn't enough. Sometimes the fairy tale is replaced by a horror movie, Cinderella as told by Stephen King, a bloody knife replacing a glass slipper ..."

11:19 p.m.: The columnist is startled by a sudden detonation of sound; he looks at his TV monitor, lagging 30 seconds behind the game: KAT nails a 3 while falling down. It's 95-83. He closes his laptop.

11:21 p.m.: KAT takes it to Wembanyama, knocks down a short jumper; 97-88. Goodness. It's single digits.

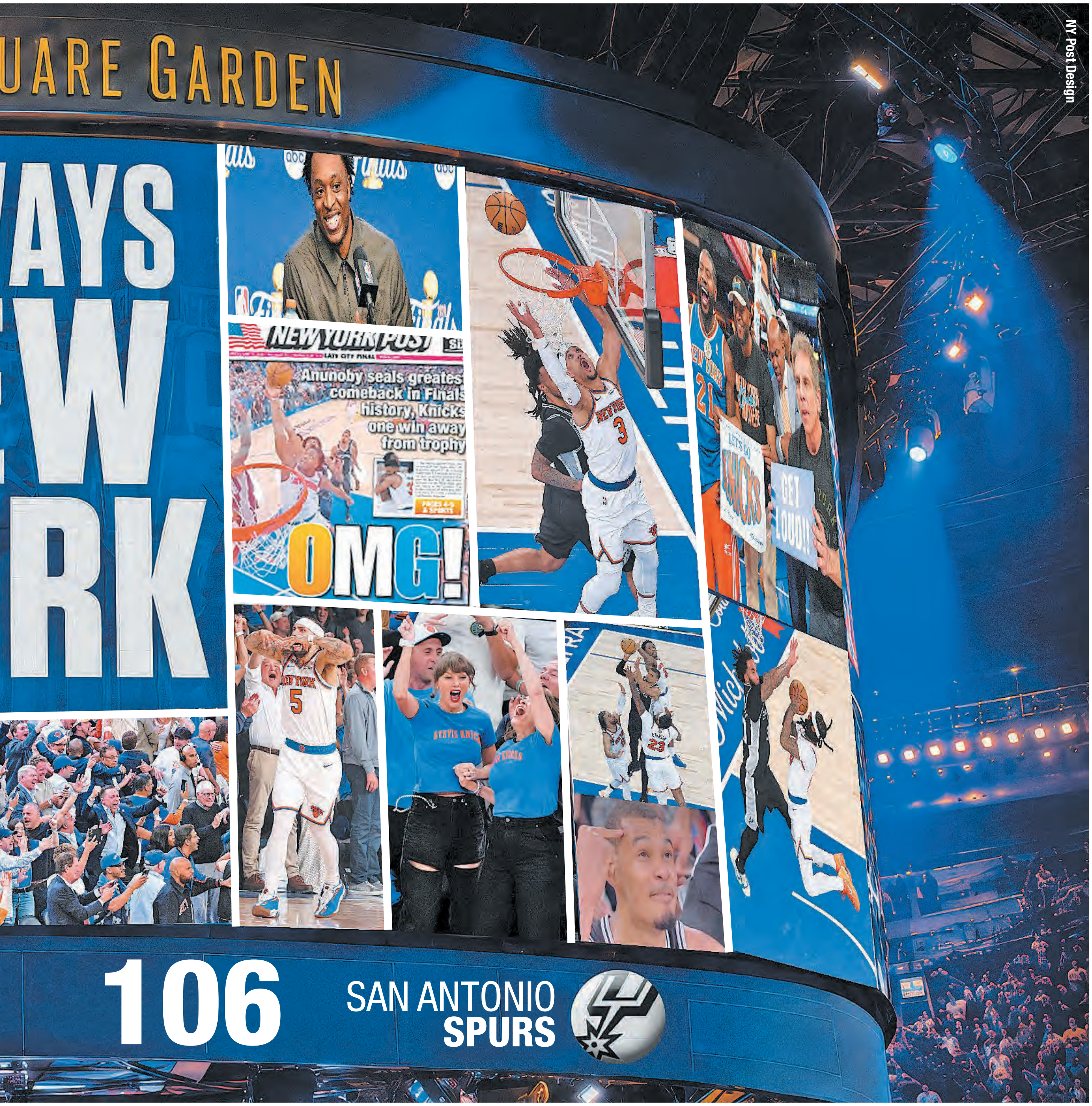
11:22 p.m.: For the first time: *"DEEEEE-FENCE! DEEEEE-FENCE!! DEEEEE-FENCE!!!"*

11:24 p.m.: After four straight Brunson points, Anunoby knocks one down from the corner. It's 99-95. Timeout, Spurs. David slams out high-tens to everyone in the vicinity of his seat, including McEnroe, who crows: "This is the mother of all crowds!"

11:25 p.m.: Everyone in the Garden is jumping as if it's a House of Pain concert, led by Mariska & Taylor, who are hug-jumping in their matching "STEVIE KNICKS" shirts like they're at a high school mixer. This is suddenly a very happy place.

11:27 p.m.: But not quite like now. Wemby gives the Spurs a 104-97 lead but Alvarado makes it 104-100 with a fearless 3, then Brunson audaciously lofts one from 27 feet over the outstretched hands of Wembanyama. Splash. It's 104-103. Mike Breen, brilliant all series, straight-down-the-middle for all of the series' 189 ½ minutes, finally unleashes one that might've betrayed his roots in the old blue seats: *"This building is SHAKING right now!"*

11:28 p.m.: And it's about to be launched into orbit as Hart makes a steal and is streaking all alone to the basket and *OH MY GOD, DID HE JUST BLOW THE LAYUP? HE BLEW THE LAYUP!!!!!* On TV, you can see a number of fans — including David — double over. The next morning on "Get Up," ESPN's Mike Greenberg will say: "I thought we were going to lose Larry David there ..." David isn't the only one to almost flat-line.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11:29 p.m.: Hart is ashen-faced, yet in real time the rest of the Garden sees Wembanyama, of all people, pick him up by blowing two free throws. Then Hart's ride-or-die, Brunson, knocks down a floater. The Knicks have their first lead of the game, 105-104.
11:30 p.m.: The Spurs call timeout. The columnist flips open his laptop. Now that the "Knicks lose" version is complete, he hastily starts the "Knicks win" one: "How do you write it? How do you explain it? The Knicks were dead — they were as dead as a basketball team can be. They were down 29. It felt like 59 ..."
11:31 p.m.: And it's back to the "Knicks lose" version as Castle sinks two uber-clutch free throws to put the Spurs back up 106-105.
11:33 p.m.: After a botched Knicks possession, the ball ricochets to Fox, ahead of the field, who everyone in the building expects will bleed some clock and get fouled eventually. Fox is normally one of the fastest guards in the NBA, but he's been slowed by a bum ankle. In the moment, he forgets that. He figures an easy layup awaits. Anunoby catches him. Anunoby blocks it cleanly. The ball lands in Alvarado's hands. The Knicks are *still* alive.
11:35 p.m.: The same way Ron Harper knew what was coming because of the 10,000 hours he spent playing pro basketball? Fans can be similar outliers. So Michael Clark had an inkling. When Brunson launched his rainbow over Wembanyama, he immediately remembered Easter Sunday 2012 against the Bulls. That day, Carmelo Anthony hit the game-tying 3 at the end of regulation and the game-winning 3 in OT, *both from the exact same spot where Brunson let it fly.* More omens? Tonight, Clark is wearing a white No. 11 Brunson jersey ... and a blue No. 7 Melo T-shirt underneath. "We're winning this game," he tells his friend.
11:35:37 p.m.: There has long been speculation what kind of moment will be required for Breen to debut a "triple-bang" tweak to his classic "BANG!" signature call. As Brunson prepares to launch one from 30 feet out, you can almost hear the words forming. The shot is dead straight. But it's short — maybe because of a Wembanyama fingernail. When it misses, the Garden emits a collective gasp, then a groan, and then ...
11:35:53 p.m.: Anunoby, out of nowhere, maybe out of the heavens themselves, swoops in, soars up, and tips it in with 1.2 seconds left. No triple bang, but instead Breen gets to invent a new triple threat: *"It's good! It's GOOD!! IT'S GOOD!!!"*
11:36 p.m.: This is no longer a basketball game, it's a tent revival. It's so loud the top of your head starts to tingle. It's so loud that it feels like what the inside of Jimi Hendrix's amplifier must have sounded like. Jerry Seinfeld mouths, "What?" John Calipari and Adam Sandler, sitting behind each other under the basket where OG went OMG, just laugh and slap fives with strangers. David keeps staring at the scoreboard, seemingly fearful that the fifth replay will show something different. Next to him, McEnroe is laughing uncontrollably.
11:37 p.m.: Dan Weiss, the Spurs play-by-play announcer, sitting next to a grim-faced Sean Elliott, sums it up for his listeners on WOAI radio, 1200 AM in San Antonio: "The Spurs need a miracle."
11:37 p.m.: There is no miracle. There is only a cacophony of sound that will stay in the eardrums and memory banks of anyone who was here. Including Ron Harper, whether he wants it or not. "New York fans have always treated me well," he says and he shakes hands with dozens of giddy patrons on his way out of the arena.
11:38 p.m.: The columnist files his second-edition column, double-, triple- and quadruple-checking to make sure it's the "Knicks win" version.
11:40 p.m.: Russell Wilson, who's seen his share of things on fields of friendly strife, posts on X: "OMG!!!! WOW!" Later, no less a Knicks blood rival than Jaylen Brown will put it this way: "OG Anunoby is different."
11:41 p.m.: Just before he starts a postgame interview with Lisa Salters, OG receives a jubilant bear hug from Hargitay. Looks like Brunson might not be the only special guest star on Season 28 of "Law & Order: SVU."
11:42 p.m.: Anunoby sums it up for Salters in the most Anunobian way possible: "We're good at hoops."
12:21 a.m., June 11: KAT on OG: "The right hand of God!"
12:38 a.m.: Two minutes early, the columnist has his lead for the last edition: "For half a heartbeat it felt like this was going to be one more Band-Aid for a broken heart, one more time when the Knicks would play Lucy, snatch the football back just before you kicked it ..."
1:37 a.m.: David fires off an email that speaks for many of the 19,812 now trying to figure how to get home through city streets swollen in joy: "It was hard for me to believe that *I* could witness that. I'm supposed to *miss* games and moments like that. That's what I was thinking."
2:20 a.m.: Unable to talk his way into any of the midtown bars, all of them stuffed to the gills, after mingling with the masses outside the Garden, Michael Clark heads to the train to go back to his sister's apartment in Hoboken to crash. Soon enough Clark, the president of Mid-Atlantic PRMI and a member of Baltimore Country Club, will fire off a tweet to Hart — saved by his teammates from a lifetime of nightmares, a native Marylander who's made no secret of wanting to fill his summer with golf as soon as possible.

"Come to BCC!" Clark types.

"I'll be there!" will come the reply.

When that happens, they'll have a thing or two to talk about.

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GAME 4EVER!

By MIKE VACCARO

FROM tipoff to final buzzer, Game 4 of the 2026 NBA Finals between the Knicks and the Spurs lasted 2 hours and 50 minutes. There was one tie: 0-0. There were just three lead changes, all in the final 82 seconds. There were 42 fouls called — 21 on each team. Two of them were flagrants — one apiece. There were 72 made baskets — 36 for the Knicks, 36 for the Spurs. There were eight blocked shots — you guessed it, four per side.

In every way, this was an epic basketball game, as closely contested as the sport allows. Across those 170 minutes, two teams and two cities and two fanbases would volley dizzying highs and nauseating lows and every manner of emotion in between as allowed by law. The Knicks had played 2,619 games inside this iteration of Madison Square Garden since Feb. 14, 1968. None of them were quite like what No. 2,620 would turn out to be ...

NBA
NEW YORK
32
SPURS
5
HARPER
2
8
SHAMET
44

A SECOND-BY-SECOND REVIEW OF THE KNICKS' INCREDIBLE COMEBACK WIN OVER THE SPURS IN EPIC FINALS CLASH

HURRAY! OG Anunoby's tip-in (far left) won Game 4 of The Finals and completed an amazing 29-point comeback against the Spurs, sparking a joyous reaction by Karl-Anthony Towns (above), who was not happy about an elbow to the mouth (left).

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post; Getty Images (2)

2:44 p.m.: There will be 19,812 people filling 19,812 seats at the Garden tonight. They all start their pilgrimage somewhere. Michael Clark's begins in Penn Station — the one on North Charles Street in Baltimore, where Clark, a native of Randolph, N.J., now lives — and ends at the "other" Penn Station 2 hours and 16 minutes later.

6:33 p.m.: "Some nights," says Bruce Beck, the iconic Channel 4 sports anchor, as he steps into a Garden elevator, "you can just sense something special's about to happen, can't you?"

7:09 p.m.: Victor Wembanyama, presumed face of the NBA well into the 2040s, busies himself with a drill where he alternates left-handed and right-handed layups. This is the Mikan Drill, named for George, the face of the NBA beginning in the 1940s.

8:26 p.m.: Mariska Hargitay wraps up her second performance of the day of "Every Brilliant Thing" at the Hudson Theater on 44th and 6th and receives her second standing ovation of the day. She has a courtside seat waiting for her 10 blocks south. Traffic is impossible. She's wearing the sky-blue Kobe 5 Protro Nikes Jalen Brunson gifted her a few months ago. She starts to run.

8:39 p.m.: The Knicks aren't the only ones who had a winning streak snapped in Game 3. Avery Wilson, the 31-year-old veteran of "The Voice" and "The Wiz" (he played Scarecrow), was 6-for-6 singing the national anthem before playoff games until the Knicks lost to the Spurs 115-111. "I don't think of myself as a good luck charm," he says. "I just try to do my job."

8:41 p.m.: One minute and 39 seconds later, he has done his job quite well: As with all seven before now (and the one that will follow nine days from now at City Hall), he belts out a version of the "Star-Spangled Banner" that would've given Francis Scott Key himself goose pimples.

8:42 p.m.: Garden P.A. man Mike Walczewski gets through the "Victor" and the "Wem–" before "-banyama" is completely drowned by boos.

8:44 p.m.: This one's loud and clear: *"... at guard at 6-2 from VILL-anova, NUM-ber 11, Jaaay-leen BRUN-son!"*

8:47:02 p.m.: Ref Zach Zerba, who knows that he and partners Courtney Kirkland and James Williams are going to have as many eyes lasered on them tonight as Wembanyama and Brunson do, fiddles with the ball before the opening jump ball. "All right, guys," he says, "let's go to work!"

8:47:11 p.m.: Wembanyama beats Karl-Anthony Towns for the tap.

8:47:29 p.m.: KAT gets called for his first foul.

8:49 p.m.: KAT gets a measure of revenge, draws a foul on Wembanyama, except ...

8:51 p.m.: ... Mitch Johnson asks for a review. The call is reversed. KAT has two fouls 62 seconds into the game. On TV, Tim Legler tells his partner, Richard Jefferson: "RJ, that's a tough one." Mitchell Robinson walks to the scorer's table.

8:54 p.m.: Julian Champagnie steals the ball and dunks, and for the fourth straight game, the Spurs have a double-digit lead, 12-2. Timeout, Knicks.

8:55 p.m.: Hargitay walks to her seat. She's wearing the black shirt she left the theater in. She settles in next to her seat neighbor: Taylor Swift. The singer has a gift for the actor: a blue T-shirt with orange letters: "STEVIE KNICKS."

8:57 p.m.: A few steps over, a couple of other seat neighbors, John McEnroe and Larry David, each look at the scoreboard. They are stone-faced. So are most of the 19,810 others.

9:02 p.m.: Josh Hart sinks a 3. The Knicks have rallied back. It's 14-10.

9:11 p.m.: The rally is short-lived. The Spurs can't miss. And it gets grim at the Garden: All three refs miss a textbook defensive goaltending call against Luke Kornet on a Jose Alvarado shot, and a few seconds later Wembanyama clearly tips in a ball sitting on the rim that should've been offensive goaltending. Spurs 32, Knicks 17.

9:18 p.m.: Wembanyama squirms around Robinson for a layup, and on the way back downcourt he points at his head, a not-so-subtle French (or Sicilian) message. Seconds later, Robinson's shoulder hits Wembanyama flush in the face. He falls, but he's fine. He's laughing, in fact, pointing at his head again, poking it, and now there's nothing obscure about it: "I'm in your head, booooy!" he gleefully shouts. Easy flagrant. At least MSG has something to cheer about.

9:21 p.m.: Those cheers are gone. The Garden sounds like the world's most famous funeral parlor. Devin Vassell makes it 41-20.

9:24 p.m.: The first quarter ends. It's 41-22. The TV camera catches a glum Patrick Ewing and a glummer John Starks. Their eyes tell you: *"We've seen this movie before."*

9:28 p.m.: Ron Harper, who won five championship rings with the Bulls and Lakers, is the target of some envious good-natured ribbing in his seat a few rows off the court, Knicks fans asking about his son, the Spur. "Ron, how long till we can sign Dylan away and bring him home?" Harper laughs. And thinks to himself: "We can't get too confident. It's the Finals." Few know what that means more than he does.

9:38 p.m.: For the first time, the Garden sounds defeated. Jordan Clarkson makes a running layup, but somehow Carter Bryant gets behind the defense for an alley-oop and it's 59-34. A few boos come tumbling out of the "cheap" seats. A minute later KAT picks up his third foul.

9:41 p.m.: And Hack-a-Mitch has begun. He complies with two bricks.

9:45 p.m.: Mitch out, Ariel Hukporti in.

9:56 p.m.: In the space of 73 seconds, Dylan Harper a) finishes a drive most 10-year NBA vets have no hope of finishing; b) drains a 3; c) picks up a Keldon Johnson loose ball and finishes at the rim after a ridiculous 360-spin move. Dylan Harper is 20 years old. It's Spurs 71, Knicks 42.

9:56 p.m.

71-42

Spurs lead by 29

9:57 p.m.: "You see this dynamic kid, and he's playing like this on this stage, which is the greatest stage in the world," Ron Harper says. "And as a fan it makes you so excited for what's ahead. And as a father?" Harper laughs. "As a father it makes you hope that by the time he's done, he looks at my five rings and jokes about what a small collection it is."

10:03 p.m.: Halftime. It's 76-49. At least there's Wu-Tang Clan.

10:06 p.m.: Michael Clark can't believe he came all this way for *this*. At halftime, he's almost philosophical as he clicks on his iPhone. He has thoughts as he stands in line to buy a fresh Blue Moon: "It's not good ... if the Spurs win Game 4, I don't give a damn ... best of three at this point. I'm not giving up on my team in Game 4 ... the Spurs made 14 3s! Fourteen!"

10:07 p.m.: Eddie Burns and Christy Turlington and their two kids are all here, the parents sitting up above, children in the family season ticket seats not far off the floor. As Wu-Tang Clan eases into their show, Burns texts his daughter, Grace:

> **"SOME NIGHTS, YOU CAN JUST SENSE SOMETHING SPECIAL'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN, CAN'T YOU?"**
>
> **— Bruce Beck**

Continued on Page 72

FOCAL POINT

Playing down to opponents continues to be issue as Libs now face stronger Valkyries

DON'T SLEEP ON THEM: Breanna Stewart and the Liberty, who have struggled against much lesser teams lately, will have their hands full with the frantic Valkyries defense. Heather Khalifa

By MADELINE KENNEY

SAN FRANCISCO — Liberty star Jonquel Jones wasn't about to make excuses for the Liberty's disastrous loss in Seattle on Thursday night.

She didn't take the bait when a reporter proposed that the different lineups may have contributed to the Liberty's 16 turnovers that led to 15 Storm points.

"We just have to be better locked in," Jones said after New York's 99-88 loss. "At this point, we've had practice reps, we've had shootaround time, we've had time with each other and, like, I'm not about to come in here and make an excuse for us, like, we just have to be better. That's just what it is. It's not about the reps, it's not about the playing time, it's not about none of that stuff. It's about having some heart and playing with some f--king heart."

Sunday

LIBERTY AT VALKYRIES

7 p.m.
ESPN

The Liberty, who've lost three of their last four games, are set to wrap up their four-game road trip Sunday against the Golden State Valkyries. They've been complacent, at times, and shown a willingness to play down to their opponents. Effort and focus has waned.

That hasn't bode well for the Libs, who suffered disappointing losses against the Portland Fire, Washington Mystics, Los Angeles Sparks and Storm.

Playing down to an opponent shouldn't be an issue for the Valkyries. But the Liberty have to be prepared for the smothering team defense the Valkyries possess.

Led by All-Star candidate Gabby Williams, Golden State is coming off back-to-back wins against the Atlanta Dream, including Friday night's 78-75 rock fight. And Williams said she believes Friday night's showing was proof that Golden State is ready to knock down another contender.

"We knew that Atlanta was really going to go after us after that first game and I think it's going to be something similar with New York," Williams said. "We know how bad New York wants this after seeing what happened with them in Seattle. And so just expecting that they're going to want to throw that first punch, and I think the way we handle tonight, that gives me confidence that we can handle New York on Sunday."

Consider that a warning shot directed at the Liberty.

The Valkyries already demolished the Libs once this season, defeating them 87-70 at the start of their Brooklyn homestand. In that loss, turnovers, missed shots and poor execution on defense were major factors in the Liberty's demise.

New York's defense has improved immensely since May 21, when the Liberty were without Leonie Fiebich, Betnijah Laney-Hamilton and Sabrina Ionescu.

All three are back.

Fiebich has been on a tear over the past four games, averaging 15.8 points on 55.6 percent shooting, including 59.1 percent from deep.

This month, Jones bolstered her own All-Star case, shooting 79.3 percent in the restricted area and 44.9 percent from behind the arc. She's averaging 17 points and 9.1 rebounds in June.

Breanna Stewart, who sat out the Storm loss to rest, is expected to be back in the mix.

Meanwhile, Sabrina Ionescu hasn't found her footing in the Liberty's flow offense and hasn't looked her best defensively since returning from back soreness.

But what better time for Ionescu to have a breakout performance than in the Bay Area, where her roots lie?

On Friday night, Ionescu had her high school gym in Orinda, Calif., named in her honor.

On Sunday night, she'll have a chance to torment the Valkyries, who would be more than happy to one day bring the Bay Area native home.

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Liberty assistants have Golden State of mind

By MADELINE KENNEY

SAN FRANCISCO — Sunday will feel like a homecoming of sorts for Liberty coach Chris DeMarco.

DeMarco spent the past 14 years with the Golden State Warriors, working his way up from the film room to eventually a front-of-the-bench assistant on Steve Kerr's staff.

He was on board for the entire Warriors dynasty era. He has four NBA Finals rings to prove it. He worked closely with many players — Klay Thompson, Jordan Poole and Draymond Green being just some of them.

DeMarco always considered the opportunity to be a head coach and lead his own team. He's been in charge of the Bahamian men's national team since 2019 and brought the country to the doorstep of its first Olympic berth for men's basketball two years ago.

The Liberty job was one of the hottest coaching vacancies during the WNBA offseason. The Libs have the resources to go out and get whom they wanted. General manager Jonathan Kolb targeted candidates with NBA backgrounds.

He ultimately hired DeMarco, who overhauled the team's style. The installation process and subsequent feeling-out period have had their bumps. The Libs offense ranks seventh and defense fifth through the first seven weeks of the season.

DeMarco plans to revisit his old office in Chase Center, which was a second home for DeMarco since it opened in 2019. (The Warriors previously played at Oracle Arena in Oakland.)

"That's probably gonna be a little bit weird being in there," DeMarco told The Post. "But yes … obviously know [Chase Center] well. I'm excited to really see a lot of people from the Warriors organization, people I coached with, people I coached, other people in the building. So it's gonna be fun, even pulling up and seeing everybody at the door."

It will also be somewhat of a reunion for Liberty assistant coach Will Sheehey, who joined the Warriors in August 2021 as an assistant video coordinator.

Sheehey was quickly promoted to player development analyst and later to assistant director of player development.

Sheehey left the Warriors ahead of last season to join Denmark's Bakken Bears as an assistant coach and head of player development before taking the Liberty job.

DeMarco went to several Golden State Valkyries games last season, so he knows the environment will be rowdy and engaged.

"When it's [the NBA's] offseason, to be able to still go to Chase and get some action, watch great basketball," DeMarco said, "yeah, I had a lot of fun as a fan."

WNBA COMMISSIONER'S CUP Presented by coinbase

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LAS VEGAS
22

Edstrom shipped to Nashville

By MOLLIE WALKER

The Rangers continue to sort through their group of fringe NHLers.

Adam Edstrom was traded to Nashville in exchange for the No. 148 pick and prospect Massimo Rizzo, the team announced during the second day of the NHL draft Saturday afternoon.

ADAM EDSTROM

The move comes one day after Brett Berard was shipped to Montreal as part of a prospect swap for William Trudeau.

According to a source, the Rangers don't plan to extend a qualifying offer to Rizzo, who profiles more as a career AHLer.

With the emergence of players like Jaroslav Chmelar and Adam Sykora last season, the Rangers had a bit of a logjam of bottom-sixers building up. Moving Berard and Edstrom gives more promising players a clearer path to an opportunity.

Edstrom, the 6-foot-7 forward the Rangers drafted 161st overall in 2019, was ravaged by injuries during his New York tenure.

After suffering two long-term lower-body injuries in the span of 10 months, Edstrom was limited to 51 games in 2024-25 and 35 games last season. Despite returning from a fractured ankle that required surgery in March, the 25-year-old was a healthy scratch in the final 11 games of the 2025-26 season.

The injuries never allowed Edstrom to gain any traction in the Rangers lineup, but the fit wasn't quite right either.

Head coach Mike Sullivan even experimented with Edstrom at center, a position he hadn't played at the NHL level. It was short lived and created an even larger question mark over Edstrom entering the offseason.

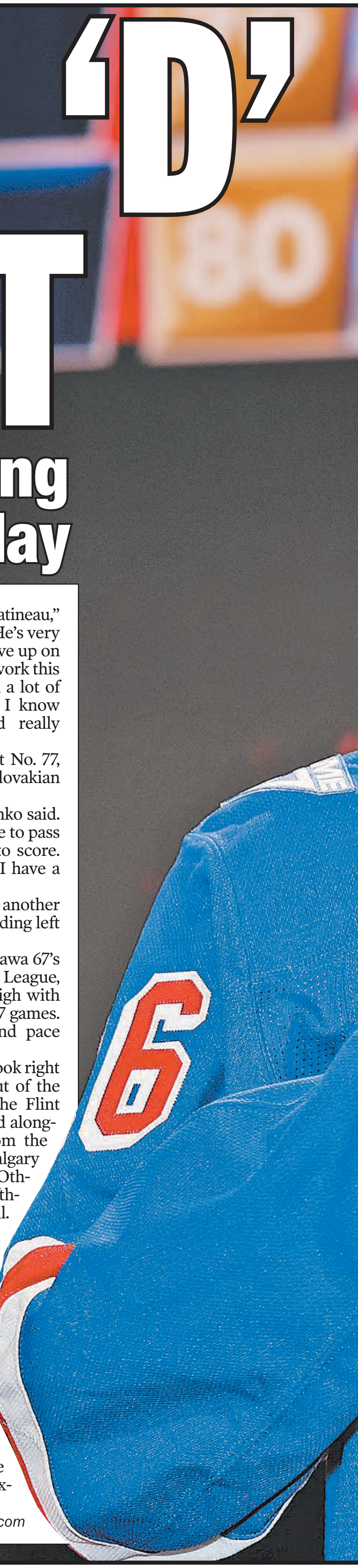
Team president and general manager Chris Drury was able to recoup a fifth-round pick for Edstrom, who finished his Rangers tenure with 10 goals and six assists in 97 games over parts of three seasons.

Signed through the 2026-27 season at $975,000, Edstrom is set to become a restricted free agent with arbitration rights next summer.

The Rangers subsequently traded the 131st and 148th picks to Seattle to move up to pick No. 102 and select center Spencer Bowes out of the Ontario Hockey League. As a result, the Rangers were able to pad the organization's depth down the middle with another skater on the NCAA track.

PUT THE 'D' IN DRAFT

Rangers go heavy on boosting blue line with picks on 2nd day



By MOLLIE WALKER

The left side of the Rangers defensive depth chart was heavily reinforced during the second day of the NHL draft Saturday.

Five of the Blueshirts' nine total draft picks this weekend were left-shot blueliners who will bolster the organization's thin collection of defensive prospects. After taking Alberts Smits on Friday's Day 1, the Rangers took four more at the same position throughout Day 2.

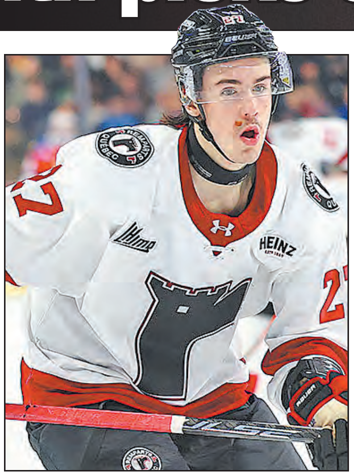
Capping the second round by taking Benjamin MacBeath at No. 64 out of the Western Hockey League, the Rangers also selected Charlie Morrison 77th overall from the Quebec Maritime Junior Hockey League.

"Obviously, I feel a lot of emotions," MacBeath said in a Zoom call. "It's a lot of stress leading up to it, but I mean, to be drafted by the kind of organization like the Rangers, it's such a relief and it's awesome to get to spend that time with my family after. It's been great."

The 18-year-old MacBeath is headed to play for three-time NCAA champion coach David Carle at the University of Denver next season. Committed to the Pioneers since he was 15, MacBeath highlighted the elite coaching staff, winning culture and proximity to his family as reasons for choosing the NCAA route.

Describing himself as a two-way defenseman, MacBeath touted his ability to move up and down the ice and join the rush. He said he looks to create shooting lanes on the blue line and can close spaces quickly with his edges.

Rangers director of player personnel and amateur scouting John Lilley cited the department's best-available-player philosophy for the influx of left-handed defensemen.



"Sometimes it's just the way the list falls," Lilley said. "This year it certainly seemed a little D-heavy anyway. And we ended up with those left-shot 'D,' but it was the way the list went and to deviate from it, and jump six, seven spots — because a lot of times players have been taken in between — just kind of goes against what you've tried to build the entire season with your list."

The Rangers also added size to their D-pool with Andre Mondoux in the sixth round (162nd overall). Mondoux is slated to return to the OHL next season before heading to Notre Dame in the fall of 2027.

Just three picks after MacBeath, the Rangers selected goalie Danai Shaiikov at No. 67 out of the QMJHL. Amid the expected departures of netminders Hugo Ollas and Talyn Boyko, who combined for just seven games for the Wolf Pack, team president and general manager Chris Drury needed to strengthen the goalie depth.

Right now, the organization has Igor Shesterkin, Dylan Garand, Spencer Martin and Callum Tung.

"Scott Clemmensen, who is our goalie scout, really valued this young man [Shaiikov] in Gatineau," Lilley said. "He's athletic. He's very competitive. He doesn't give up on pucks, and he had a lot of work this year. ... He's a battler with a lot of skills and quickness and I know Scott really pushed and really wanted him."

After taking Morrison at No. 77, the Rangers went with Slovakian center Tomas Chrenko.

"I'm a playmaker," Chrenko said. "I love to make plays. I love to pass to my teammates. I love to score. I'm a creative player and I have a high hockey IQ."

The Rangers selected another forward at pick No. 102, adding left wing Spencer Bowes.

Last season with the Ottawa 67's of the Ontario Hockey League, Bowes set a new career high with 23 goals and 42 points in 67 games. Quick feet and a high-end pace highlight Bowes' skill set.

At No. 163, the Rangers took right wing Darian Anderson out of the OHL. Last season with the Flint Firebirds, Anderson played alongside Jacob Battaglia, whom the Rangers acquired from Calgary in exchange for Brennan Othmann and their 2024 fifth-round pick Nathan Aspinall.

In his first 60 OHL games, Anderson posted 20 goals and 45 points.

"I think we checked a lot of boxes and got a lot of players that our scouts are passionate about," Lilley said. "It's, a lot of times, a two-year process watching these young men as underagers right through this year. I'm really excited and I know the guys in the room worked extremely hard."

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IN D-MAND: Benjamin MacBeath is all smiles in his new Rangers sweater after the franchise selected the Canadian defenseman with the No. 64 pick during Day 2 of the NHL draft Saturday in Buffalo. Charlie Morrison (inset) also was added to the Blueshirts' stable of prospects along the blue line when he was drafted 77th overall. Getty Images (2)

Healthy Varlamov offers Isles hope

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Semyon Varlamov is intent on returning to the Islanders, and he appears to be on track after missing most of the last two seasons due to major knee problems.

ISLANDERS NOTES

"As of today, actually, 'Varly's' been on the ice. He told me he felt the best the last four, five years with his knees," general manager Mathieu Darche said over Zoom on Saturday after the completion of the two-day NHL draft. "I told him you feel 25? He just said, no, 26. We're excited the way he played in the AHL. Right now, if he's healthy, we plan on him."

Darche is hopeful that Varlamov can play more frequently next season as Ilya Sorokin's backup. The team will bring in other goaltenders as insurance.

"We're obviously going to sign other goalies, because we have to protect ourselves," Darche said. "Hopefully, he gives us the 25-30 starts we want from a backup. He would be an awesome addition, if that works out. He's under contract, he feels great. If he's healthy, he's going to be our backup next year.

"He's been training, no medication, no anything. He's been on the ice at Northwell [Health Ice Center] probably twice a week, if not more, and in the gym. It's very encouraging what we're seeing right now."

The 38-year-old Varlamov last appeared in a game for the Islanders on Nov. 29, 2024. It was revealed late in the season he underwent two knee replacement surgeries. He was able to appear in two games for the team's AHL affiliate in Bridgeport, while on a conditioning loan. It marked his return to professional hockey after missing over 500 days.

TURN BACK THE CLOCK: Goaltender Semyon Varlamov, age 38, told Mathieu Darche that he feels 26 again, the Islanders GM recalled Saturday. Corey Sipkin

➤ Darche said he isn't planning to make a qualifying offer to restricted free agent defenseman **Adam Boqvist**, partly to give prospect **Isaiah George** an opportunity at the NHL level. It could either be as a seventh defenseman or a bigger role.

"He might start in the top six," Darche said. "We want competition."

➤ When Darche said his team can never have enough quality defensemen Friday night, he wasn't kidding.

The Islanders followed up using their first-round pick on blueliner **Malte Gustafsson** by selecting two more defensemen Saturday with their first two picks of the day.

After taking Gustafsson 13th overall, the Islanders chose **American Lincoln Kuehne** (109th) in the fourth round and Czech **Vladimir Dravecky** (141st) in the fifth. Both are right-handed defensemen, significant since the Isles are thin on the right side of their prospect pool.

They capped the draft by taking Russian center **Artyom Matyuk** in the sixth round (173rd) and American right wing **Robert Cowan** (205th) in the seventh.

Without a second- and third-round pick, the success of this draft likely will hinge on the development of Gustafsson, a big, physical defenseman who will take part in the team's upcoming developmental camp for prospects. The 6-foot-4, 203-pound, 18-year-old is planning to return next season to HV71 of the SHL, the top professional league in his native Sweden.

➤ The Islanders acquired defenseman **Ryan Healey** from the Wild for future considerations, the team announced. The 22-year-old was a fourth-round pick in 2022 and spent the last four seasons at Harvard.

Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

LOSING LUIS STREAK

Long Robert absence no Amazin' surprise

PHILOSOPHY 101: If a Met breaks his arm in the forest and there's no one there, does it make a sound?

Though baseball fans knew that White Sox irregular outfielder Luis Robert Jr. is a highly fragile and unreliable performer, the Mets volunteered to pay the remaining $20 million on this year's contract to have him play center field those days and nights when he's able or in the mood.

In his previous three seasons, Robert had twice gone down for long stretches on the injured list — first a hamstring injury, then a hip injury — while explaining his disinclination to run the bases — including to first base — as a matter of avoiding pain.

Those who covered the White Sox reported that Robert's departure made complete sense as it was a total salary dump, as in good riddance.

No matter, in exchange for Robert's $20 million contract, the Mets decided that he was just the man for them! The perfect replacement for the irrepressible Brandon Nimmo!

After playing 24 games for the Mets, batting a Mets-like .224, Robert, since late April, has disappeared with a bad back. He has since been MII — missing in inaction.

He's now, through an interpreter, threatening to return. Perhaps. Maybe soon, maybe not. You know how it goes with the Mets. Wasn't it Gil Hodges who first issued that Spider-Man mask to be worn by heroic Mets who homered to cut the opponent's lead to just 10 runs?

How do you say Bobby Bonilla in Cuban?

Luis Robert Jr. Bobblehead Night will be limited to the first five patrons who say, "Pretty please" or the last 10 who say, "No, thanks."

But Robert will be back just in time for the Mets fantasy playoffs run, as even the worst and most fundamentally barren teams aren't bad enough to not make the top 12. And this year's MLB postseason will be loaded with teams who finished halfway down in a scrap heap, including those who "caught fire at the end" to win six of their last 10.

So, are the Mets cursed or do they invest in sandwich board signs sold in bulk that read, "Curse Me"?

TAKE A SEAT: Oft-injured outfielder Luis Robert Jr., in his first season with the Mets, has been out since late April with a back injury. Corey Sipkin

You haven't seen this on NBC, since last time it was on NBC!

I WISH you were with me when I open emails from NBC Sports. We could have some good laughs together, as it seems everything the network pitches is loaded with history-making nonsense and chicken feed for dumb clucks. Poultry in motion.

Yep, we all remain grateful for NBC's historic decision to reduce a national viewing audience by more than half in order to place an NFL playoff game on pay-extra — if you had access to it — Peacock. Obedient **Mike Tirico** danced for joy delivering that historic news!

Last week, another laugh-riot from NBC, and I quote, though not in all bold capital letters as the news release headline appeared:

"Yankees-Red Sox rivalry returns to NBC Sports for the first time since 1995 on 'Sunday Night Baseball,' this Sunday, June 28, on NBC and Peacock."

Ah, but NBC hasn't owned regular-season rights to televise MLB games since 1995! Come to think of it, I haven't heard from **Winston Churchill** since about, oh, 1965.

And as even hype-full **Michael Kay** acknowledged, Thursday night on YES, the Yanks-Red Sox "rivalry" ain't what it used to be, not with Boston in last place. Only the obscene chants about the Yankees remain in Fenway as a sustaining salute to group classlessness.

But NBC's satire-proof release wasn't done, as it presented its earlier game, Sunday, as a chance to watch the Angels' "breakout shortstop **Zach Neto**" play on Peacock or NBCSN.

What? What! Zach Neto? Honey, while you're up, grab me the defibrillator. I think it's under the sink.

Heading into Saturday, Neto was batting .228 — "Feh," as Aunt Ida would say — and he's another home run or whiff one-trick pony. He has hit 17 home runs while striking out 118 times in 316 at-bats, that's a nauseating 37.3 percent of the time!

Breakthrough player!? Yeah, where would the last-place Angels be without him?

But whatever it takes to brighten our days. As the blind man said after running his hand over the matzo, "Who wrote this junk?"

➤ As seen on Fox late Thursday night, the presence in the U.S. lineup of **Christian Pulisic** not only makes his team better, he makes its opponents worse, as in panicky. Holding Pulisic out most of the game the U.S. didn't need to win allowed Turkey, already eliminated, to play loosey-goosey and effective offense.

What did you say, you Türkiye?

WORLD Cup telecasts continue to teach lessons. For example, I had no idea that Turkey is spelled T-ü-r-k-i-y-e, which means it must be pronounced as a Texas cowboy would, "Turk-EYE-Yay," as in yippee eye-OH ky yay!

And the Croatian team is so loaded with players whose last names end in "itch," I confused it with the starting five of the imported University of Illinois basketball team that made this year's Final Four.

➤ A shall-remain-anonymous sports radio regular called the other day — in the Age of **Jimmy Dolan**, speaking with me on the record can cost a fellow his job — to tell me that his Apple Watch alerted him to a hearing danger when it registered 94 decibels while he watched a game in Yankee Stadium.

He said that the game didn't include much that would naturally produce danger-warning noise, such as suddenly excited spectators, thus he was left to surmise that the culprit was the public address system, which often emits "loud, annoying noises" for any reason, including no reason at all.

According to the Hearing Health Foundation, the maximum safe volume is 85 decibels. And even 85, it warns, is too loud for sustained safe comfort. "Come again" can be heard as both an invitation and a request to loudly repeat what you just said.

➤ Not for a moment did I realize that there are so many high-profile sports, media and entertainment celebrities who drive old clunkers with broken windshields that they'd find it impossible to turn down endorsement deals to star in CarShield commercials.

Just in time for the annual Idiots Picnic, we now have "bulk" starters in addition to just plain starting pitchers. Reader **Michael Mattice** explains: "One goes five innings, the other goes four."

Unreliable sources tell us that **Rob Manfred** will not permit MLB's gambling partners to accept bets on whether the coming All-Star Game telecast will again break records for fewest viewers.

Let's see if I've got this straight. Last week NYC voters exploited the democratic process to elect leaders who vow to obliterate democracy. And **Odell Beckham Jr.** was invited back by the Giants. Nurse!

Happy 77th birthday, **Dan Dierdorf**, the first sportscaster to simultaneously endorse high-fat food (potato chips) and weight-loss products. ESPN's **Chris Berman** would soon follow.

MushnickPhilip@gmail.com

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Astros slugger Álvarez is most 'valuable' player in awful AL at midpoint

Getty Images (4)

JOEL SHERMAN

HARDBALL

THE AMERICAN League stinks.

It is no longer a small-sample tidbit. The schedule reached its midpoint Friday, and just five AL teams were over .500 and just five had positive run differentials — the Yankees at plus-110 then the Rays, Mariners, White Sox and Tigers at plus-43 combined.

The implications are wide-ranging. Before beating the Royals 22-1 on Friday, the White Sox not only would have won a tiebreaker to be the AL Central champs at just 41-38 with a minus-three run differential, but would have had a first-round bye along with the Yankees.

The teams that played for the AL pennant last year, Seattle and Toronto, bulked up further in the offseason but were a combined 81-84 — yet the Mariners were the AL West leader and the Blue Jays were one game out of a playoff berth. It was part of a confusing snarl of meh (or worse) teams that in the coming weeks must determine how to handle the Aug. 3 trade deadline when they are not playing particularly well and yet are still postseason viable.

And at least 50 percent of the way through this season how bad the AL is has made picking an MVP more challenging, particularly if, like me, you take the "Valuable" part to mean value toward doing the ultimate thing — winning. This all probably would have been less confusing if Aaron Judge had stayed healthy because he would likely be cruising toward his fourth AL MVP and third in a row.

Now you can ask who is the Yankees MVP? Is it Ben Rice or has he not been more "valuable" than the man he was supposed to replace in Paul Goldschmidt? Or is it Cody Bellinger, the Yankees' OG Anunoby — just really good at everything and a winning player daily?

The best player in the AL is Bobby Witt Jr., but his Royals have been a massive disappointment. Yordan Álvarez has had the best offensive year, but the Astros have not been over .500 since April 6.

What is more valuable — the rarity these days of a two-way catcher at the highest level like Dillon Dingler or a rookie who plays way beyond his years like Kevin McGoningle. The Tigers have them both and have been so bad that they are contemplating trading ace Tarik Skubal.

I landed on Álvarez because without him, Houston's bad times (and they were bad) would have been so much worse. And the Mariners, who should be dominating the division, instead have left the door open and, don't look now but here come the Astros led by Álvarez second in batting average (.314) in the AL (all stats through Friday), first in the majors in on-base (.427) and slugging percentages (.619) while excelling at home (1.132 OPS) and road (.963), vs. lefties (.948) and righties (1.083), and also with runners in scoring position (1.218). He is David Ortiz 2.0.

2. Rice. 3. Bellinger. 4. Dingler. 5. Nick Kurtz, A's.

ANTI-AL MVP

Cal Raleigh, Mariners.

A few months ago you could have a pretty good AL MVP argument Judge versus Raleigh, who hit 60 homers as a catcher. So the fall so far is precipitous and is central to why Seattle is not running away with the AL West. Raleigh was hitting just .165. He missed a month with an oblique strain. Yet, it is hard to ignore just eight homers, including one in his past 21 games, a period when the switch-hitter was batting .104 with a .378 OPS. Additionally, his strikeout rate for this season had climbed to 32 percent.

2. Jose Altuve, Astros. 3. Corey Seager, Rangers. 4. Steven Kwan, Guardians. 5. Jackson Holliday, Orioles.

NL MVP

Shohei Ohtani, Dodgers

Halley's Comet was last visible from Earth in 1986 and is scheduled to next be in 2061. The baseball version is available on a nightly basis. Ohtani is in line to win a fifth MVP (all unanimously) and his fourth in a row. But because his uniqueness is viewable daily, there seems to be some ho-hum about it all. But one human being pitching akin to Jacob Misiorowski and hitting like Juan Soto would be like finding out that one person in the NFL is challenging for the league lead in throwing touchdowns as a quarterback and interceptions as a cornerback.

Among pitchers with at least 75 innings this year, Ohtani's 1.58 ERA was second in the majors only to Misorowski (1.45) and his .957 OPS was third among qualifiers to Álvarez (1.046) and Kyle Schwarber (.962) while his .294/.412/.545 slash line resembles that of Soto: .294/.393/.557. This is Secretariat at the Belmont when it comes to NL MVP — everyone else is playing for a distant second place.

Which brings us to Schwarber, who finished second to Ohtani last year. He led the majors with 29 homers this season and if he continues this way, he would have a chance to become the 17th player to lead a league in homers three times — the last to do so in the NL was Willie McCovey 1963, '68 and '69. Schwarber would have won them all from his age-29 season onward — a period in which he had 216 homers and counting through his current age-33 season. It is the fifth-most in that period ever behind Sammy Sosa, Judge, Babe Ruth and Jim Thome, and he has a strong chance before season's end to pass Ruth and Thome. His career has overtones to Thome in that he is hitting great at this age toward 500 homers (Thome got to 612). This may be putting Schwarber on a Hall-of-Fame trajectory.

2. Pete Crow-Armstrong, Cubs. 3. Schwarber. 4. Otto Lopez, Marlins. 5. Corbin Carroll, Diamondbacks.

NL ANTI-MVP

Manny Machado, Padres

That the Padres ranked last in the NL in runs per game was not all on Machado and instead revolves around four players committed to long-term contracts who have provided way too little — also Xander Bogaerts, Jackson Merrill and the powerless Fernando Tatis Jr. But Machado is the face of this, and even having stirred offensively in the last two weeks, he was hitting .186 with an 82 OPS-plus and minus-0.2 Wins Above Replacements (Baseball Reference), the latter a reflection of how much his defensive metrics have fallen at third base, too.

Perhaps MLB does not need a salary cap as much as discipline. Machado has seven years at $275 million owed after this season, Tatis eight years at $226 million, Bogaerts seven years at $175 million and Merrill eight years at $114 million. The three highest annual-value positional free agents signed in the offseason were Kyle Tucker ($60 million annually), Bo Bichette ($42 million) and Alex Bregman ($35 million).

In 76 games, Tucker was 11th among Dodgers position players in WAR (0.7). David Stearns said by season's end he expects Bichette to have stats commensurate to his reputation. Which is nice. But part of value is when you provide it, and these Mets have needed a lot more from Bichette while they have struggled. And Bregman was hitting .244 with six homers, though while remaining an elite third baseman.

2. Austin Riley, Braves. 3. Bichette. 4. Trea Turner, Phillies. 5. Tucker.

AL Cy Young

Cam Schlittler, Yankees

The righty led the AL in ERA by a whole run — 1.62 to next Drew Rasmussen of Tampa Bay at 2.62. He was tied with Texas' Jacob deGrom for the highest strikeout percentage (29.9). He was third in innings at 100 to the 101 of Kansas City's Michael Wacha and the 100.1 of Texas' Nate Eovaldi. And was second in batting average against (.194) to Rasmussen (.197). He has been a consistent, dominant workhorse — an incredible draft/development story.

2. Rasmussen. 3. Parker Messick, Guardians. 4. Wacha. 5. Louis Varland, Blue Jays.

ANTI-AL Cy Young

Luis Castillo, Mariners

There have been worse pitchers in the AL than Castillo, who had a 4.93 ERA and a minus-0.6 WAR even after allowing one run in six innings Friday. But his veteran/contractual status has put Seattle in a bind. The Mariners have gone to a piggyback starter situation in theory to protect innings for the rotation and the bullpen. But it is because they have six starters and the one who is pitching poorly and is making $22.75 million this year and next. At some point this could come to a point in which Seattle has to make the tough decision because Kade Anderson, the third overall draft pick last year, is dominating Double-A and could be a rotation factor soon, too.

2. Bryan Abreu, Astros. 3. Max Scherzer, Blue Jays. 4. Brayan Bello, Red Sox. 5. Chris Bassitt, Orioles.

NL Cy Young

Jacob Misiorowski, Brewers

This is pretty much a coin flip with Philadelphia's Cristopher Sánchez, and normally I would hedge toward the starter with the greater workload, because in this age to be able to save pen for others is so valuable. And Sánchez, at 110 innings, was tied with Miami's Sandy Alcantara for the MLB lead. But it isn't like Misiorowski is a slouch with 99 innings (sixth in the majors) and his dominance nudges him to this award.

Among qualified starters, his 1.45 ERA was first in the majors and, in the NL, it was a drop to 2.00 by Cincinnati's Chase Burns for second. He led the majors in strikeout percentage at 38.8 and the next best was 30.6 by Pittsburgh's Paul Skenes. His batting average against was .144 and next best was the Dodgers' Yoshinobu Yamamoto at .192.

2. Sánchez. 3. Burns. 4. Ohtani. 5. Yamamoto.

ANTI-NL CY YOUNG

Kodai Senga, Mets

Through June 12 of last season, Kodai Senga led the majors in ERA at 1.47 and the Mets had the majors' best record at 45-24. But in the sixth inning that day while covering first base, Senga leaped for a high toss from Pete Alonso and strained his right hamstring. The next day was Friday the 13th and nothing has been the same for Senga or the Mets since.

Senga has been injury plagued and terrible, going 1-9 in 17 starts with a 7.03 ERA and the Mets have followed by going 73-103, the majors' third-worst record in that time. Senga had managed to last just 27 ²/₃ bullpen-killing innings in seven 2026 starts while logging a 10.08 ERA. One of Carlos Mendoza's last acts as manager was moving Senga to the bullpen after Senga did a lot to make sure Mendoza would not stay manager much longer.

2. Zac Gallen, Diamondbacks. 3. Aaron Nola/Andrew Painter, Phillies. 4. Matthew Boyd/Edward Cabrera/Jameson Taillon, Cubs. 5. Adrian Houser, Giants

AL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Kevin McGonigle, Tigers

In a bad year so far for the Tigers, they have broken in a 21-year-old good at everything — playing short and third and walking more than he strikes out and accumulating a 126 OPS-plus.

2. Parker Messick, Guardians. 3. Munetaka Murakami, White Sox. 4. Travis Bazzana, Guardians. 5. Payton Tolle, Red Sox.

NL ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

JJ Wetherholt, Cardinals

The NL version of McGonigle, though a few years older at 23. Still, the precociousness of the game — in the field, on the bases and in the batter's box for the lefty-swinging second baseman.

It is hardly a consolation prize, but the Mets rookies Carson Benge, A.J. Ewing and Nolan McLean have outplayed the Phillies duo of Justin Crawford and Andrew Painter. It is just a consolation prize because the Phillies have overcome that to be high-end contenders while even with the youthful injection, the Mets appear pretenders.

2. Foster Griffin, Nationals. 3. Sal Stewart, Reds. 4. TJ Rumfield, Rockies. 5. Konnor Griffin, Pirates.

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MARINERS
PADRES
SD

GRASS IS GREEN-ER

Amazin's beat Phillies to snap 7-game skid, earn 1st win under interim manager

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In removing Carlos Mendoza and inserting Andy Green, the Mets hoped to breathe some life — any life — into a team that was perishing.

For much of Saturday, Citi Field felt funereal. But a spark — and a few hits and runs — demonstrated a pulse that had not been evident earlier.

It is just that — a pulse, rather than a steady heartbeat — but the Mets discovered a bit of fight, enough offense and finally a victory.

METS	**6**
PHILLIES	**2**

Boxscore Page 58

A sixth-inning eruption that featured big swings from Francisco Lindor and A.J. Ewing carried the Mets from two down to two ahead in what became a 6-2 win over the Phillies in Queens, where the announced crowd of 37,338 sat through a 70-minute rain delay to see the club snap a seven-game skid and see Green record his first victory as interim Mets manager.

It is far too soon to declare that banishing Mendoza and installing Green will change much around the Mets, who seem destined to sell at the trade deadline, but any trace of vitality would be welcome to a clubhouse and crowd that wants August and September games to matter.

"We know we got a mountain to climb," said Christian Scott (4 ¹⁄₃ innings, two runs, six strikeouts). "But we can only climb the mountain one step at a time."

To beat significant odds and accomplish as much, the Mets (35-48) would need more games like Saturday's, in which they looked listless and lifeless for five innings — as did the crowd, which appeared apathetic rather than angry at the lineup's strikeouts — before they rattled off all six of their runs in the sixth and seventh innings. During their seven-game losing streak, they scored as many as six runs in a game one time.

Through five innings against opener Tim Mayza and Alan Rangel, the Mets totaled three base runners. In the sixth, six straight Mets batters reached base.

A Juan Soto single began the rally. Bo Bichette's knock put runners on the corners. And Lindor — in his third game back after missing two months while his team spiraled — snuck a triple under Bryce Harper's diving glove at first base, tying the game and providing hope for just about the first time in a week.

After a pair of walks from Jared Young and Mark Vientos, it was Ewing grounding a two-run single through the middle that allowed an exhale. The Mets would add to the lead an inning later, when Soto came through with his own RBI triple and Bichette followed with a sacrifice fly.

Jason Szenes (2)

Lindor and Soto contributed in just the 11th game they have played together this season — "I think that's what everybody was hoping to see repetitively all summer long," Green said — reminding of their potential following injuries that debilitated the Mets lineup.

That injury misfortune — and not David Stearns' trades and signings that have been largely unfortunate — is where Lindor pointed to explain the Mets' predicament.

"I felt like Stearns did a good job putting the team together. We just haven't been together. We just haven't played together," Lindor said after his 27th game and Soto's 64th. "And now that we're slowly getting healthy, little by little, hopefully this next however many games we can play together and make something special out of it."

The Mets survived, for the day, because their offense awoke, Scott was solid in allowing just a two-run homer to Harper and their bullpen was shutdown.

After an abbreviated, 82-pitch outing from Scott in his first start off the injured list, Green turned to four relievers (A.J. Minter, Huascar Brazobán, Luke Weaver and Devin Williams) to cover 4 ²⁄₃ scoreless innings in which they walked one and let up two hits — one of which belonged to Harper, who was thrown out trying to stretch a bloop single into a double.

Minter was particularly impressive in 1 ²⁄₃ innings, his longest outing since Oct. 2, 2021. The 32-year-old lefty entered with a runner on in the fifth, retired Trea Turner and Kyle Schwarber, then returned and got through a Harper-Brandon Marsh-Bryson Stott sixth.

"What Minter did was pretty special today," Green said of a pitcher who has not allowed an earned run since April 4, 2025.

Speaking of streaks, Weaver took down the eighth to push his run to 23 scoreless innings.

"I think a lot of guys did a lot of really good things today," Green said.

msanchez@nypost.com

Rousing speech had players fired up, 'excited

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Put in an impossible position, Andy Green stepped into a crowded Mets clubhouse and did "the best he possibly could," in the words of A.J. Minter.

On Friday, in the aftermath of a firing of Carlos Mendoza that felt both inevitable and surprising, if only because it had not happened sooner, the former (and future) senior VP for player development and current interim manager gathered the Mets and authored his first rallying speech in Queens.

The overall message: Play the game, do not worry about tomorrow or yesterday and ignore the outside noise and expectations. Let others feel pressure and focus on the game itself.

"I think he did a really good job of [saying]: His job here is to take the pressure off of us and let us go out there and just play free," Minter said Saturday before the Mets beat the Phillies at Citi Field in the second game of the Green era. "Because given the situation, it can be stressful here, and us players take a lot of responsibility as to why Mendy was let go.

"His message was: 'My job is to take that responsibility and pressure off you guys and just let you go out there and play the way we're capable of playing.'"

The speech was encouraging even if it did not immediately lead to a victory. The Mets dropped the series opener with Philadelphia, a seventh straight loss.

They did not lose because of a lack of energy or dismay from their manager being dismissed.

ON DECK

vs. Phillies

Sunday, 1:40 p.m.,
SNY, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Cionel Pérez

2026 stats:
3-3, 4.99 ERA

Career vs. PHI:
0-0, 9.35 ERA

Last start:
First start

PITCH BREAKDOWN

29%	28%	23%
Sinker	Slurve	Curveball

LHP Jesús Luzardo

2026 stats:
6-4, 4.39 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
6-2, 3.27 ERA

Last start:
Tues., at WSN;
6.2 IP, 5 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

36%	26%	22%
Sweeper	4-Seamer	Changeup

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at Blue Jays,
7:07 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

TUESDAY: at Blue Jays,
7:07 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Jorge Polanco** (ankle) was set to begin another rehab assignment with Triple-A Syracuse on Saturday. Polanco's last rehab assignment, in which he played six games from May 27 to June 5, ended when his ankle discomfort became too much to play through.

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! Francisco Lindor celebrates his triple during the sixth inning to tie Saturday's game, helping interim manager Andy Green (inset) and the Mets beat the Phillies.

to go play': Minter

"[The speech was] something that got us fired up [Friday] night," Minter said. "A lot of the guys were like, 'Wow, that was actually pretty good.' We were excited to go play and are excited again tonight."

Green will need buy-in if there is any slim hope of resuscitating a season that has been flatlining for three months. He was not previously in the Mets clubhouse but is accustomed to life in a major league clubhouse, from a four-season playing career to managing the Padres from 2016-19 to serving as the Cubs' bench coach under David Ross from 2020-23. David Stearns hired Green to lead the Mets' player development system in '24 — a role to which Green plans to return once this season is over, an experienced placeholder who hopes to spark this year's club.

To find next skipper, Mets should employ 'tryout' approach

Joel Sherman

THERE IS no magic formula.

Joe Torre was far from the first choice to manage the Yankees. Mike Brown was far from the first choice to coach the Knicks. Both came questioned by fans, media and the industry — and those questions persisted into their first seasons; seasons that would end with drought-ending championships.

The executives who were around then will tell you that Torre was hired in a slapdash way, with little background work and based more on having preexisting relationships with folks who had George Steinbrenner's ear. Yet, Steinbrenner had such buyer's remorse that he — depending on who you believe — either contemplated rehiring Buck Showalter in the weeks after naming Torre or actually offered him the job back.

Unlike in his three previous stops, Torre's calm-bomb-dropping persona proved ideal to manage in Steinbrenner's chaotic world for what became the dynastic Yankees. Torre was terrific, a deserving Hall of Famer. But his blessing was arriving in The Bronx simultaneously with Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera, still the two most self-confident players I have covered in four decades. Brown having Jalen Brunson as the team thermometer sure helped too.

It is a reminder that as the Mets embark on yet another managerial search, this is really about players. There is doubt that Gil Hodges and Davey Johnson brought credibility and more to Flushing. But it was something beyond player talent that was needed to bring the Mets their two championships.

Tom Seaver was furious when there was an attempt at celebrating merely getting to .500 in late May 1969. As bad as the franchise's first seven seasons had been, The Franchise would not allow 18-18 to define his team. Seaver made clear the ambition was far greater. Keith Hernandez's intensity and real-time, in-game influence was a steering wheel toward the 1986 title.

The Mets need to symbolically put the dugout tablets down and remember that at 7 p.m. a contest breaks out, not a theory. That kind of leadership works best from players and, good luck to David Stearns as he tries to find types who can incorporate all the modern information and not let it dull their competitive spirit; especially when he seems to have a blind spot in this area. But it must be fostered further by a manager — a specialty of the Dodgers' Dave Roberts, for example.

And now that Carlos Mendoza has been fired and interim manager Andy Green — I will take him and Stearns at their words — will return to running the farm system at season's end, the Mets are in the market for their 11th manager of the 2000s, which includes Green (Andy, not Dallas), but not Carlos Beltrán, who was named but never served.

A.J. Hinch might be ideal because beyond his skills, he has a strong bond with Stearns dating to their shared Houston time. But Hinch signed a long-term extension with the Tigers after last season. Alex Cora is free after being fired from the Red Sox. Brandon Hyde and David Ross are looking for second tries at managing. Albert Pujols threw his own hat in the ring. Bench coaches such as Jeff Pickler (Rockies), George Lombard (Tigers) and Walker McKinven (Brewers) are viewed as on managerial trajectories.

Neither Beltrán nor J.D. Martinez has publicly stated they want to manage, nor have the Mets made public any long list of candidates, let alone the two former stars currently working for them. But if both sides are interested, here is a thought — let them each manage for a few weeks.

This would have to be after the Aug. 3 trade deadline if the Mets clearly were sellers and now playing for the future — and also after Beltrán's July 26 Hall of Fame induction. Is this novel? Not completely. The Cubs in 1961-62 had their College of Coaches, where they cycled through managers. And back then the sport was not as open to radical ideas.

It would be a test for both sides. The Mets would see both manage. But I do think former star players in particular have a concept, but no true feel of what it is like to have to collaborate with a front office and answer to reporters twice a day and feel the media/social media/fan zings, etc. This would allow Beltrán and Martinez to audition, see if they actually want the job, and get familiar with the players and coaches so they can hit the ground running in the offseason if selected.

The veteran Mets, in particular, would have to be sold that they are not guinea pigs in an experiment. But they have lost some rights to moan by being associated with such a bad team. Plus, Green could serve as a bench coach to try to help professionalize the apprenticeship.

I believe a season is only completely wasted if you waste it. The Mets are not contenders. But if you are thinking about next year with players — think using prospects more — why not think about it with your manager as well? Why not try to gain insight into candidates — if they actually want to be candidates — while they determine if they actually want to do this?

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INJURY REPORT

- **Ryan McMahon** (peritonsillar abscess) returned to New York to begin baseball activities after 72 hours of rest following the drainage of his abscess. He is expected to be activated ahead of Friday's game.
- **Trent Grisham** (right hamstring strain) continued his ramp up and is set to return after playing in a rehab game or two.

ON DECK

at Red Sox

Sunday, 7:20 p.m., NBC, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Carlos Rodón

2026 stats: 4-2, 3.70 ERA

Career vs. BOS: 5-6, 4.28 ERA

Last start: Tuesday at DET 5.1 IP, 6 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

44%	25%	15%
4-Seamer	Slider	Sinker

RHP Sonny Gray

2026 stats: 9-1, 2.95 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 3-3, 4.17 ERA

Last start: Tuesday at COL 7.0 IP, 1 ER, 11 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

21%	20%	19%
Cutter	4-Seamer	Sweeper

UP NEXT

MONDAY: vs. Tigers, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers vs. RHP Casey Mize

TUESDAY: vs. Tigers, 7:05 p.m., Prime Video, WFAN
RHP Cam Schlittler vs. LHP Tarik Skubal

LEFT IN THE DUST

Yanks flail again at southpaw as Sawx dish out third straight loss

By GREG JOYCE

BOSTON — Contrary to popular belief, those were not toothpicks the Yankees were swinging Saturday.

But they essentially would have served the same purpose as the lumber they did use, which has been ineffective the past few days.

Once again, the Yankees got shut down by a lefty, with their bats going silent and offensive woes growing louder in a third straight loss to the last-place Red Sox, this time 4-1 on a fine afternoon at a sold-out Fenway Park.

RED SOX	4
YANKEES	1

Boxscore Page 58

For a second straight game, Jake Bennett and the Red Sox bullpen held the Yankees (48-34) to just three hits while Gerrit Cole got hit around, resulting in their seventh loss in the past 10 games.

"With the way it's going, we all expect to be better," Cody Bellinger said. "They've been playing well. We've got to show up [Sunday] and take a game here."

A lineup that had been finding ways to win without the back-to-back AL MVP suddenly looks like it dearly misses Aaron Judge, not to mention Giancarlo Stanton and Trent Grisham, who are also on the injured list. Grisham should return within the week, but Judge and Stanton do not appear anywhere close to coming back, so the Yankees will have to figure out how to snap out of this funk without them.

More immediately, they will try to avoid a four-game sweep by the Red Sox (35-46) on Sunday night. They will do so against righty Sonny Gray after faltering against three straight lefties in Connelly Early (six innings, two runs), Payton Tolle (seven innings, one run) and Bennett ($6\frac{1}{3}$ innings, one run).

WHIFF OF DEFEAT: Ben Rice swings and misses as the Yankees struggled against lefty Jake Bennett on Saturday. AP

"Today I felt like we had some hard contact going, but kind of chasing uphill and a couple chances to get a big hit and weren't able to do it," manager Aaron Boone said. "We've got to find a way right now. It's been obviously a rough weekend for us. But a chance to win one [Sunday]."

Cole got hit hard for a second straight start, giving up four runs on seven hits, including a pair of solo home runs to Masataka Yoshida (to lead off the bottom of the first) and former Yankees first-round pick Anthony Seigler (in the bottom of the second).

But the bigger culprit was the offense.

After Tolle took a perfect game into the sixth inning against the Yankees on Friday night, Bennett had a no-hitter into the fifth Saturday before Max Schuemann broke it up with a solo home run, which was ultimately the only thing standing between them and a shutout.

Over the first three games of this four-game set, the Yankees have gone just 14-for-94 (.149) with eight walks.

Some of their most dependable batters have contributed to the recent malaise. Ben Rice went 0-for-4 Saturday and is now 2-for-23 over his past six games. Bellinger went 1-for-2 with two walks, improving him to 2-for-19 over his past six games. Amed Rosario, who had been a reliable lefty killer early on, is now 7-for-42 over his past 15 games.

The Yankees started the season 18-6 against lefty starters but have now dropped six of their past seven — including all three games of this series so far.

"I think [Bennett] took the momentum from the last couple lefties that they threw," Schuemann said. "They've all done a good job. ... Just pounding the strike zone and having the confidence to pound the strike zone. We try to put good swings together, good at-bats together, it just hasn't gone our way."

The only real threat of a rally the Yankees had all day came in the seventh inning, when Rosario and Bellinger led off with back-to-back singles. But Bennett responded by striking out Jasson Domínguez before the Red Sox went to the bullpen for Justin Slaten, who punched out José Caballero (who challenged strike three and was proved incorrect) and pinch hitter Jazz Chisholm Jr. to squash the threat.

"Honestly, those guys are pitching really well right now," said Austin Wells, who went 0-for-3 and is now batting .160 on the year. "Some young guys who've thrown well, who a lot of us don't have a lot of experience facing before. So I think there's a little bit of that to it."

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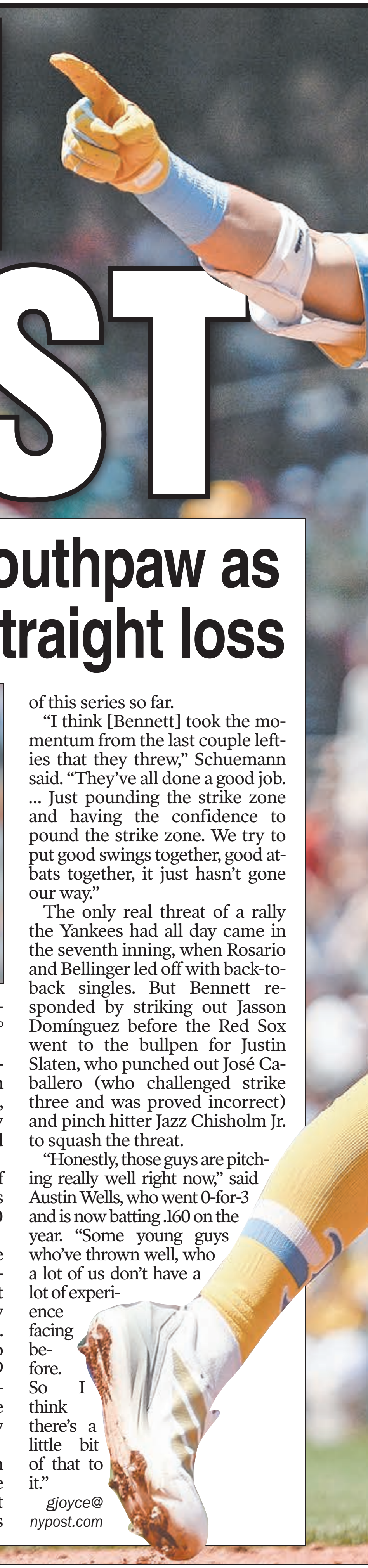

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WAVE GOODBYE: Red Sox second baseman Anthony Seigler rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run in the second inning off Gerrit Cole, as the frigid Yankees lineup couldn't help out their ace in a 4-1 loss at Fenway Park. Getty Images

Post-surgery Cole a work in progress

By DAN MARTIN

BOSTON — There's a fine line between being a great pitcher and one that's ... not so great.

Gerrit Cole is finding that out in his comeback from Tommy John surgery and Saturday, he showed a little bit of both.

Unfortunately for the Yankees, by the time the former Cy Young winner got back to his old self, he'd put the team in too big a hole to overcome.

But despite a second straight shaky outing in a 4-1 loss to the Red Sox, Cole said he was encouraged by how he felt over his final three innings compared to his rough first $2\frac{1}{3}$ innings.

"I got more aggressive as the game went on," Cole said.

The difference, according to Cole and Aaron Boone, was that after trying to be too careful in the early going and seeing his command suffer, Cole went on the attack more in the latter part of his outing.

The results backed that up.

He gave up solo homers to Masataka Yoshida and Anthony Seigler, both from the left side, in the first two innings.

And after giving up singles to Yoshida and Ceddanne Rafaela to open the third, Cole then allowed a booming two-run double to Willson Contreras.

Cole righted himself after that, retiring nine of the next 11 batters.

The turnaround didn't help the Yankees avoid a third straight loss, but as Austin Wells said, it may have given Cole some momentum heading into his next outing.

GET 'EM NEXT TIME: Gerrit Cole walks off the mound in the sixth inning after giving up four runs to the Sawx at Fenway Park. Getty Images

"I tried to free myself up," Cole said. "The command sometimes isn't there. You have to go after it then and not care as much about where the pitch is going."

Not every pitcher can do that without disastrous results. As much as the Yankees and their slumping offense can ill afford shaky starts from their ace, the team is looking for Cole to round into peak form as the season moves along and not necessarily in June, seven starts post-elbow surgery.

Cole allowed four runs in $5\frac{1}{3}$ innings to the Red Sox and has given up nine runs in $9\frac{2}{3}$ innings in his last two outings.

Perhaps Boston wasn't the place to call on Cole for dominance, since Fenway has been his Kryptonite for much of his career.

Of any ballpark in which he's made more than three starts, Cole has the worst ERA (5.52), WHIP (1.409) and opposing OPS (.864) with the Green Monster behind him.

Saturday was more of the same.

The homer to Yoshida to lead off the bottom of the first, the home run to Seigler and the double to Contreras were all on four-seam fastballs, which Cole threw less than usual Saturday.

He responded after the Contreras double by whiffing the next two batters and gave up just a pair of singles the rest of the way.

"Coming off surgery, he's slowly starting to unlock and feel like himself again," Wells said. "He started to free himself up again after trying to be too perfect. He's been carrying that a little bit. He was able to break free the last couple of innings, just go out and pitch and not worry too much about results. That freed him up and gave him some good momentum going forward."

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Wells sputtering to restart after IL

By DAN MARTIN

BOSTON — You wouldn't know it to watch or listen to him now, but the Yankees drafted Austin Wells in the first round largely because of his powerful left-handed bat.

There were questions both inside and outside the organization about whether Wells would develop enough at catcher to keep him behind the plate.

Now, the concern is if Wells can hit enough to be a viable option in the lineup.

The Yankees remain steadfast that Wells will be able to get going offensively, and Wells said, even after another hitless afternoon in a 4-1 loss to the Red Sox, he's pleased with the progress he's made at the plate since his minor league rehab stint after landing on the IL with cervical headaches.

"Today was the best and most comfortable I felt in the box so far," Wells said of his post-IL games.

He noted that he's been working to get more "tilt" back in his swing after flattening it over the years.

The goal, he said, was to allow him not to rely on having to make perfect contact in order to get a hit.

But Wells also noted that as much as it bothers him to fail to produce offensively, as he did Saturday, he's more concerned with his work with the pitching staff.

Hitting, Wells said, is "not a secondary part of my game, but my No. 1 job is to control the pitching staff. If we're not doing that, it doesn't matter how many runs or hits I have. We can't win the game."

He's continued to impress the pitchers and coaches with his ability to call games effectively and frame pitches.

"I know I have a huge impact when I'm behind the plate and keeping that the No. 1 focus makes it a lot easier to brush off an at-bat or couple of at-bats," Wells said. "If I'm 0-for-3 on a day, obviously I'm pissed off about it, but to go out there and get to the eighth or ninth with a zero [from the other team] is the goal."

Aaron Boone said he's seen Wells' offensive woes get to him "at certain times," but not lately.

And he agreed with Wells that he's at least trending in the right direction.

"I feel he's moving the needle right now, believe it or not," Boone said. "He was really struggling there for a while. I feel he's gaining traction. The results aren't there yet."

There are still those around the Yankees who fear all the information Wells — and the team's other catchers — are tasked with keeping track of has cost him too much at the plate.

But the Yankees aren't alone in making catcher a defense-oriented position.

Still, they need to get more out of Wells than the 2-for-17 he's been since his return from the IL or the .510 OPS he'll carry into Sunday, his lowest since mid-April — especially with so much of the rest of the offense struggling.

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NEW YORK POST
SUNDAY
Sports
JUNE 28, 2026

Jason Szenes

New interim gets first win to end Amazin' seven-game skid

GREEN ENERGY

A.J. Ewing gestures to the Mets bench while heading to first on his go-ahead two-run single in a sixth-inning rally. In the second game under interim manager Andy Green (inset), the team showed some life and snapped its seven-game slide with a 6-2 victory over the Phillies. **PAGES 84-85, 65**

GAME 4EVER

MINUTE-BY-MINUTE LOOK BACK AT EPIC GAME 4 RALLY BY KNICKS IN FINALS

VACCARO / PAGES 75-72

Aqueduct
8
7
6
5

BIDDING GOODBYE TO BIG A

CANGIALOSI / PAGES 62-63

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